THE

HAUNTED CAVERN:

A

CALEDONIAN TALE.

In the moſt high and palmy ſtate of Rome,
A little ere the mightieſt Julius fell,
The graves ſtood tenantleſs, and the ſheeted dead
Did ſqueak and gibber in the Roman ſtreets.
Stars ſhone with trains of fire, dews of blood fell,
Diſaſters veil'd the Sun, and the moiſt ſtar,
Upon whoſe influence Neptune's empire ſtands,
Was ſick almoſt to Doom's-day with eclipſe!

BY
JOHN PALMER, Jun.

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1796.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

DEDICATION.

TO

MISS FARREN.

MADAM,

IN accepting the permiſſion you ſo kindly gave, of dedicating the following Sheets to you, it may perhaps be ſaid, that, like many other young Authors, I ſeek to ſhelter my own imperfections under the ſanction of a high name: But to whom could I dedicate a firſt Attempt with ſo much propriety, as to a Lady, who, to the ſplendor of public talents, adds the dignity of private worth, and whoſe goodneſs of heart will, I am ſure, pardon the errors which

a refined

a refined taſte muſt condemn? Novels, as well as the Drama, are cloſely allied to fiction; and the moſt ſhining Ornament of the latter, cannot but be a competent Judge of the former. That you will find much to blame in the Caledonian Tale, I am certain; at the ſame time, I cheriſh a hope, that you will find ſomewhat to commend: At all events, I feel a conſcious pride in thus offering it to you, as a ſmall token of that reſpectful eſteem with which I am,

Madam,

Your much Obliged,

And very faithful Servant,

JOHN PALMER, Jun.

THE HAUNTED CAVERN.

CHAP. I.

There is a Power
Unſeen, that rules th' illimitable world,
That guides its motion from the brighteſt ſtar,
To the leaſt dull of this ſin-tainted mould;
While Man, who madly deems himſelf the lord
Of all, is nought but weakneſs and dependance.
This ſacred truth, by ſure experience taught,
Thou muſt have learnt, when wandering all alone,
Each bird, each inſect, flitting thro' the ſky,
Was more ſufficient for itſelf than thou! THOMSON.

IN the wild and barren county of Aberdeenſhire, within a league of the ſea-ſhore, and on the ſummit of a lofty hill, ſtood a gothic caſtle. The battered walls, that had for ages ſeverely

felt the reſiſtleſs hand of time, were here and there decayed, and crumbling into duſt; the battlements, which ſeemed enveloped in the clouds, were all overgrown with ivy, and become the abode of the ill-favoured and ominous feathered race. No vicinity, ſave a few ſtraggling cottages, the habitations of the vaſſals; no ſound, but where the ocean, in ſullen fury, laſhed the ſandy beach, and diſmal murmurs echoed through the rocks.

This manſion, while the ſceptre of England was ſwayed by Henry the VIth, was the property of Sir James Wallace, a deſcendant of that illuſtrious character, William Wallace, who choſe to encounter the perils and the frowns of war, rather than ſee his country

country become the ſpoil of a rapacious invader. Surely the eye that peruſes thy fate, will not, cannot, refuſe the tribute of a tear to thy remembrance! Peace to thy hallowed ſhade; and may thy manly virtues meet with the reward above that was denied them here!

The caſtle had been beſtowed on William as ſome ſmall recompence for the ſervices he had done his king and country, and had from that period continued in his family.

Sir James reſembled not his noble anceſtor; of a ſordid diſpoſition, deceitful, cruel, and deſigning, his heart was a ſtranger to humanity or compaſſion. The ſmiling cherub Charity dared not

approach his inhoſpitable roof; and the child of neceſſity, who at his portal craved a ſcrap of bread, was not only peremptorily refuſed, but if inſtigated by biting want to repeat the requeſt, was ſpurned from off the threſhold.

The partner of his bed was a being every way oppoſite to himſelf: her ſuſceptible heart never felt greater ſatisfaction than in relieving the needy, reclaiming the abandoned, and rewarding the virtuous!

Matilda, ſo ſhe was called, was daughter to the Lord Glencairn, a man who, but for one failing, was formed an ornament to ſociety. Ambition was his darling paſſion, and the wiſh of aggrandizing, and enrich-

ing

ing his family, wholly employed his thoughts.

At the caſtle of this Baron, Sir James firſt ſaw Lady Wallace, and aſked her of the Earl, who joyfully conſented to accept him as his ſon. Not ſo Matilda; the diſſimilarity of diſpoſition with which Nature had endued herſelf, and Wallace, cauſed her juſtly to look with horror on the approaching nuptials. Nor was that the only reaſon; her gentle heart had long and faithfully been given to another. Alan Duntrone, of a noble, but unfortunate family, whoſe chief boaſt conſiſted of an illuſtrious deſcent, and an unſpotted reputation, was the object of her affection. He had, ſome time before, embarked for France, to ſerve

under the banners of the Gallic Monarch; and had not been long upon the continent, ere the fatal news arrived that he had fallen, covered with wounds and glory. But the heart of Matilda was too firmly attached ever to be withdrawn from her firſt and only love.

Glencairn commanded his daughter, on pain of denouncing a curſe upon her head, to become the wife of Wallace. The timid and dutiful victim yielded to the rigour of her unnatural parent, and at the altar preſented her hand, and pledged thoſe vows which were in the poſſeſſion of her loſt Alan.

Alas! can the gaudy ſplendor of a court, the noiſy riot of a midnight banquet,

banquet, or a profuſion of uſeleſs ore, inſure content? Erroneouſly too oft do parents judge, and while they fondly flatter themſelves they are inſuring their offspring's happineſs, plunge them in laſting miſery!

A ſhort time ſubſequent to the marriage of Lady Wallace, her father paid the great debt to nature, and on his death-bed declared the injuſtice he had done his child, implored her pardon, and cloſed his eyes for ever, in hopes of meeting more mercy above, than he had ſhewn his daughter here.

The edge of her grief (for ſpite of the harſh treatment ſhe had experienced, ſhe tenderly loved her Father) was ſomewhat blunted by the birth of

a female, whoſe helpleſs infancy aroused her from the ſtupor into which ſhe had ſunk, and for whoſe ſake alone ſhe wiſhed to live.

Fortune, whoſe delight it is to ſport and trifle with the feelings of mankind, fully evinced her blindneſs, and diſregard of merit, in the fate of Matilda.

The barren habitation in the north ill ſuited with the libertine diſpoſition of Sir James, and his chief time was ſpent at Edinburgh, where, in the buſtle of the Scottiſh Court, he forgot his ſuffering wife; immured in a ſolitary caſtle, without a friend into whoſe breaſt ſhe could pour her ſorrows, and hope for conſolation. The ſtillneſs in

which ſhe ſat and watched the ſlumbers of her little cherub, were uninterrupted, ſave by the diſtant roaring of the waves, and whiſtling of the wind, which howled diſcordant through the ancient pile, and were at intervals accompanied by the voice of the nightly ſcreech-owl, melancholy inhabitant of the lofty battlements.

Yet even this ſad conſolation ſhe was in a ſhort time deprived of. Her worthleſs lord had beſtowed his heart on a woman, in whoſe breaſt vice reigned as predominant as did virtue in that of his conſort's; ſhe was the widow of an officer about the King's perſon; her birth was low, and the elevated rank wherein ſhe had latterly ſhone, was inſufficient to irradicate the ſelfiſh ideas

that were ingrafted by nature in her diſpoſition. The thought of ſuch a man as Wallace at her feet, at once flattered her vanity, and made that reſtleſs ambition, which had been long kindling in her boſom, burn with inſatiate fury. After a time ſpent in

> All the arts of wilful woman,
> Lab'ring for her purpoſe,

ſhe yielded to his deſires, with this proviſo, that he baniſhed his deſerving lady the Caſtle, and ſubſtituted herſelf as miſtreſs. He, no leſs a dupe than villain, conſented, and inſtantly ſet out for Aberdeen, where, on his arrival, he acquainted Matilda with the reaſon of his unlooked-for viſit; and farther informed her ſhe muſt then, it being night, depart, but that her infant ſhould remain behind.

The

The feelings of a mind, ſuſceptible as her's, may better be imagined than deſcribed. On one ſide, her paſſions were torn by wounded pride, while on the other the ſofter ſenſes were rouſed by maternal affection.

Recovering herſelf, however, ſhe yielded to neceſſity, ſnatched a parting kiſs from her darling babe, moiſtened its little face with tears, and left the Caſtle, attended only by Carrol, a crea- of Sir James's, who had orders to con- vey her on board a veſſel that lay at the ſhore, from thence to proceed to Rouen, and lodge her in a convent, the abbeſs of which, by bribes and pro- miſes, he had made his own.

Carrol executed his commiſſion punctually; he delivered his truſt, with a ſtrict charge that a ſcrutinizing eye ſhould be kept upon her conduct; then returned, and rendered his maſter happy, by informing him "his loudeſt fears were huſhed."

Jane (the daughter of Wallace) was thus, in the age of infancy, left without a friend who would inſtruct her inexperienced mind, and train her in the ſacred paths of virtue!

A ſhort time previous to the exilement of Lady Wallace, her brother Archibald, who had ſucceeded the late Earl, his father, in the title and eſtates, ſuddenly diſappeared; nor were the moſt accurate enquiries able to penetrate

trate the myſtery in which his fate was involved. Every ſearch proving abortive, Sir James ſent his truſty follower Carrol to the Caſtle of Glencairn, with orders to bring his nephew Eldred, ſon to the aforementioned Archibald, to Edinburgh, as he deſigned to take upon himſelf the guardianſhip of the young Baron.

On his arrival, he reſided with Wallace, who, when he wrote to inform his infamous paramour of the ſteps he had taken in the north, requeſted her preſence, and that of his juvenile charge. She joyfully obeyed the mandate, and arrived at the Caſtle, where ſhe met with a ſplendid reception from the lord of it.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

How great a toil to ſtem the raging flood,
When beauty ſtirs the maſs of youthful blood!
When the ſwoln veins with circling torrents riſe,
And ſofter paſſions ſpeak through wiſhing eyes!
SPENSER.

ELDRED, the young Lord of Glencairn, who was about the age of Jane, was happy in ſuch a play-mate; they let the hours glide by in pleaſure, and never did there appear a tedious one, but that on which they parted for the night.

Thus did they beguile their time till Eldred attained his 18th year, and though reared by his uncle in a manner more ſuited to the abject ſtation of a ſervile

a ſervile lacquey, than the repreſentative of an illuſtrious houſe, he diſcovered a diſpoſition replete with valour, and affability. To his inferiors, condeſcending, as the pliant reed to every puff of wind; but to thoſe who ſought to play upon his generous nature, he reſembled the ſtubborn foreſt oak, that bids defiance to the jarring elements, and braves the fury of the winter's ſtorm.

The youthful amuſements of Jane, and her couſin, had inſenſibly created a ſincere and ardent affection, which on their nearer approach to maturity, gained ſtrength; nothing ſeemed wanting to compleat their happineſs. Too tranſient is the bliſs of mortals, ſhallow is the cup of joy preſented to their lips,

and

and ſcarce do they taſte the enticing beverage, ere the bitter dregs at bottom deſtroy the flavour of the wiſhed for draught!

Such was the caſe of our young lovers; fortune was about to turn her wheel, and hurl them from the ſpoke of felicity to agony intolerable.

Fame had blown the beauty of Jane to the remoteſt parts of Caledonia's land, and a powerful and wealthy Highland Chief, named Donald of the Iſles, (between whoſe father and Sir James had ſubſiſted a ſtrong friendſhip) was induced by her voice to quit his paternal fields, and judge whether report had or had not exaggerated. With a numerous retinue of knights

and

and retainers he arrived at the manſion of Wallace, and was welcomed there with pomp and affected hoſpitality.

With impatience did he tarry for the minute that was to introduce him to the object who had cauſed his journey. But when he ſaw her, he thought, that had he been kept for ages in ſuſpenſe, this one interview would have amply repaid him. All day did he contemplate her charms, and when the hour of darkneſs warned him to retire, curſed the tedious night that tore her from his ſight. Loſt were the luxuries of the banquet on him, nor could the copious draughts of wine he ſwallowed, waſh away the paſſion which had taken root on his heart. He retired, not to reſt, but to deviſe the means by which

he

he ſhould make her his own. At laſt, he reſolved to aſk her of Sir James, but not till he had predetermined, in caſe he had met with a refuſal, force ſhould put him in poſſeſſion of what was denied to his intreaties.

To a mind like his, nothing appeared impracticable; of ſtrong paſſions, and unable to reſtrain them, 'tis not a matter of wonder he ſoon fixed his reſolution, nor could the moſt imminent danger, or oppoſition, have put him from his purpoſe. Of a bold and martial deportment, he had all that ferocity in his countenance, which marks the Caledonians: brave to an exceſs, but artful to an equal degree, and would have waded through the blood of multitudes to accompliſh his deſires:

Such

Such was the character of Eldred's rival.

He preferred his courtſhip with ſtudied ſmiles, and ſpeeches formed by art and cunning; ſhe heard him at firſt with indifference, he perſiſted and was requited with contempt. He then addreſſed his ſuit to the Baron, he boaſted of the high renown of his anceſtors, and the wide extent of his domain, he expatiated on the number of his vaſſals, and ſet forward the mutual advantages that would accrue from an alliance. Wallace liſtened to him with attention, while he recollected with diſguſt the attachment he had obſerved to ſubſiſt between Jane and Eldred. He ſought his daughter, and commanded her to receive the addreſſes of his gueſt.

In

In vain the aſtoniſhed maid lamented, wept, intreated; in vain ſhe proſtrated herſelf at the feet of her unfeeling father; in vain ſhe tore her diſordered locks, and ſmote her breaſt in anguiſh! Her ſupplications, far from mitigating, added fuel to his reſentment, and confirmed him in his ungenerous purpoſe: he mingled curſes, and unkind reproaches, with his perſuaſions.

"Alas!" ſaid Jane, "Can Donald prize the conſtrained embraces of a heart that beats for another? Will ſighs and groans accord with the careſſes of a bridegroom? To Eldred my faith is given, never, never to be broken!"

"By the Holy-rood!" replied Sir James, "This obſtinacy irritates me; nor

nor ſhall my wiſhes be fruſtrated by the idle pretenſions of a boy; pay therefore the regard and deference due to my mandate, or woe upon thy head. Meantime, preparations ſhall be made for the ſolemnity. Mark my words, and ſee thou doſt obey them!"

Then, with indignation burſting from his eye, he quitted the chamber, leaving his daughter in a ſtate of ſtupefaction, till the entrance of Eldred awoke her from her trance, who approaching, perceived the tears faſt trickling down her lilly cheek, and with eager affection conjured her to make known the cauſe; which, when he knew, rage ſo ſhook his frame as to deprive him of articulation.

After

After a pauſe, "Can heaven," he exclaimed, "Suffer ſuch injuſtice? Oh Jane, if thy affection be ardent, as I flatter myſelf it is, you cannot refuſe the boon which thus on my knees I crave!"

"Pronounce it," quoth Jane, "you know full well I can deny you naught."

"Enchanting ſound!" cried the enraptured lover, "Oh! then, my beſt beloved, conſent to fly with me beyond the reach of ſuch parental cruelty; in ſome far diſtant private corner of the kingdom, let us obliterate the remembrance of your father's cruelty, and ſoothe the want of wealth, by being in poſſeſſion of each other."

The

The bare idea of ſuch a ſtep, at firſt made the timid ſoul of Jane recoil; to quit the Caſtle clandeſtinely, and with a man, how muſt, ſhe thought, her reputation ſuffer!

At length, however, theſe fears and ſcruples were over-ruled by the perſuaſive eloquence of Eldred, and the conſcious purity of her own intentions.

"Yet," ſaid Glencairn, "Can I reſolve to immure thoſe beauties in a cottage, which heaven beſtowed to grace a court? Impoſſible!"

"Let not that thought diſturb you," returned his miſtreſs, "Contentment is the ſource of bliſs, the clay-built hovel will, when you are preſent,

ſent, appear a gorgeous palace, and the humble pallet, whereon I ſhall repoſe me, will yield a more refreſhing ſlumber, than, robbed of thee, I ſhould find under the richeſt canopy."

The young Lord ſeized her hand, and imprinting a kiſs thereon, vowed her happineſs ſhould conſtitute the future ſtudy of his life.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

———Now o'er one half the world
Nature ſeems dead, and wicked dreams abuſe
The curtain'd ſleep; now Witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings——— SHAKESPEARE.

THE next conſideration was, how and when they ſhould effect their eſcape; it was determined to meet at midnight, near a cavern that was ſituated at no great diſtance from the caſtle, and had formerly, in thoſe times when the Engliſh Edward was wont to invade his neighbour kingdom, been converted by the Scots into a priſon, wherein they caſt ſuch of the enemy as became their captives. It had not been uſed by the ſtate for near a century, and the key

had ever remained in cuſtody of the Wallaces.

This ſpot was fixed upon as the leaſt liable to diſcovery, a vulgar notion having prevailed among the peaſants that it was haunted; nay, they went ſo far as to aver they had heard frequent and melancholy noiſes iſſue from it. This ſuperſtition Sir James had ſtrenuouſly endeavoured to ſuppreſs, ſwearing whoever dared to propagate ſuch idle, vague reports, ſhould pay for their credulity.

Tediouſly, to the lovers, did the ſteeds of Phœbus go their daily courſe, and with impatience they watched their deſcent behind the weſtern hills. The chapel clock announcing the hour of twelve, Jane haſtened to the place of rendezvous,

rendezvous, and Glencairn not being arrived, ſeated herſelf upon a fragment of ſtone, bitterly lamenting her wayward fate.

"How cruel," ſhe ſaid, "is my deſtiny; deprived in my earlieſt infancy of a mother's foſtering care, commanded by a harſh father to give my hand unto a man whoſe mind I am utterly unacquainted with. Spirit of my departed and revered parent, arm my ſoul with fortitude to bear——"

"Her care is ſtill for you," exclaimed a voice; while Jane, horror-ſtruck, threw her eyes around, and perceived a figure ſuddenly turn an angle of the cavern; at this inſtant a duſky cloud enveloping the moon, left her in per-

fect darkneſs, and, on returning light, in vain ſhe ſought for the cauſe of her ſurprize.

Scarce had ſhe recovered from her panic, ere the ſound of footſteps rekindled her fears, which were as quickly diſpelled when ſhe ſaw Glencairn approach. She informed him of her extraordinary adventure, which he ſought to perſuade her was but the coinage of her brain; yet too firmly was it impreſſed on the mind of Jane, to be perſuaded it was fancy.

After ſome time, beſtowed in mutual vows, ſealed by their lips, and witneſſed by the chaſte Diana, they appointed a meeting early on the enſuing morn at a cottage in the near valley. The owner

owner was a venerable woman, who had had the charge of Jane during her infancy, but had been diſmiſſed on Matilda's expulſion. Thither it was farther ſettled Andrew, the ſervant of Eldred, ſhould bring horſes to accelerate their departure.

They then, with reluctance, bade adieu, and returned by different roads to the caſtle.

At day-break Jane proceeded to the appointed ſpot, reflecting on the myſtery of a circumſtance, which her preſent viſit to the cottage brought freſh to recollection. It was briefly this: In her ſeveral expeditions thither, to which ſhe was inſtigated by humanity, ſhe had conſtantly obſerved a female there, who

on her entering ever retired, yet was there ſomething majeſtic in her form which inſpired reverence.

In vain had ſhe queſtioned old Maud concerning her viſitor; in vain had ſhe perplexed herſelf in conjectures of who it ſhould be; and the predominant deſire of woman, dear curioſity, was left unſatisfied!

At the lowly portal ſhe found Eldred; he conducted her in, where ſhe was welcomed by the good hoſteſs, who had got the licenſed trick of age. Prolixity in converſation was her marking feature; nor was there a poſſibility of bringing her to the end of a tale, till ſhe had made her accuſtomed obſervations.

"My

"My beloved miſtreſs, ſhe cried, "in the name of the Holy Virgin, how come I honoured with your company at ſo early an hour? Has any miſhap befallen you? I fear there has, for right ſure am I that my laſt night's dream bodes nothing good; however I will not at preſent trouble you with that, but return to ſomething of more conſequence. My good Lord, your couſin, informed me that I might expect you; but uſeleſs were my enquiries to what I ſtood indebted for your viſit."

"My good mother," anſwered Eldred, "had you permitted, I ſhould ere this have ſolved your queſtion."

"There now!" returned the aged owner of the houſe, "had I permitted!

Have I not already said I intreated your!"

"Maud," said Jane, "am I, from this, to conclude you consider my visit as unseasonable?"

"Unseasonable!" exclaimed the cottager, with energy, "Alas, how little you know my heart! and yet you should know it, none ever had a greater interest in it. How often have you in early years reclined upon my bosom! Ah! those days for happiness, I never shall see their parallel. Yet what am I? A creature, that a few returning months shall see low laid in the grave. But you, in the meridian of youth and beauty, Heaven will surely bless you."

Jane tarried the conclusion of this eloquent harangue, well knowing it would be fruitless to attempt an interruption; then thanking Maud for her good wishes, made known her purpose, which she had hardly ended, when Andrew arrived with the horses.

The figure of this servant was too uncommon to let it pass without mention.

Nature, with whom he seemed no favourite, had given him a pair of small grey eyes, but in her haste had forgotten the customary ornament of an eyebrow. His nose was broad, and appeared as if some unlucky accident had spread it across his cheeks. His mouth was wide, and decorated with two

enormous rows of variegated teeth, in which, however, black was the predominant colour. His bushy beard, a fiery red, grew on his sallow chin, like furze upon a sun parched heath. His figure was not cast in Apollo's mould, being squat and muscular, and having one leg some few inches shorter than its fellow, caused his gait to be rather shambling than majestic.

The character of this servant was also somewhat singular; he was firmly attached to his master, and would with pleasure have sacrificed his own life in his defence. He was, moreover, a great philosopher, and scarce ever answered a question, without the addition of some musty proverb. Yet were the springs of his heart actuated by virtuous movements,

movements, and to his maſter he was firmly attached.

He entered, and, warned them to be gone. "Conſider," ſaid he, "*Diſpatch is the ſoul of buſineſs*, and by tarrying here, you may chance to be eaſed of the trouble of your journey. For no ſooner will you be miſſed, than the purſuit will begin; Sir James one way, and that brawny devil, Donald, like the Coloſſus of Rhodes, ſtretching from the top of one hill to another. And I muſt own, notwithſtanding their rank, I ſhould not like to be found in their company at preſent. Let us be gone my Lord, *Remember, quoth he, the early bird catcheth the worm*."

The earl thought there was found argument in what his follower ſaid, and prepared to depart; on which Maud ſuddenly left the room, but returned in a few minutes, craving permiſſion to introduce a lady, who, although a ſtranger, profeſſed herſelf much intereſted in behalf of the two fugitives.

They begged Maud to uſher in the lady; who entered the room veiled, and Jane, by her figure, diſcovered the perſon ſhe had ſo frequently ſeen there, who took her hand and preſſed it with fervor to her lips, invoking heaven to ſhower its choiceſt gifts upon her head, and to avert thoſe calamities which had befallen her mother. Then preſenting the hand ſhe held to Eldred, bade him

in

in broken ſobs, conſider the value of the jewel he was about to have in charge; murmured a bleſſing on them, and precipitately withdrew, leaving her ſpectators in amazement.

Jane took leave of her nurſe, and after Glencairn had forced a purſe upon her, they mounted their ſteeds, and ſhaped their courſe ſoutherly, reſolving to travel as far as Wales, amidſt the lofty mountains of that country, to tend their herd, and live in peaceful retirement.

They rode converſing on the ſtrange rencounter at the abode of Maud, which much engroſſed their thoughts; and the more ſo, as Jane affirmed ſhe had heard the voice before, till the dark

gathering

gathering of the clouds foretold the impending ſtorm, and they had juſt gained ſhelter in an adjacent grove, when the rain poured down in torrents, loud whiſtled the wind amidſt the lofty foliage, while blue and forked lightning, gave a momentary gleam, and the big thunder, in deep, awful ſtrains, growled o'er their heads.

"Aye," cried Andrew, (throwing his plaid over his ſhoulders) "this reminds me of an excellent proverb, *Though the ſun ſhine, leave not your cloak at home.*"

While they remained under ſhelter, they were ſurprized by the voices of men, one of whom cried, "They cannot

not be far off, I have good intelligence this is the road they took!"

"'Tis well," returned another, "if they are taken, our labour will be well requited."

"If!" anſwered a third voice, "I will purſue them to the end of the world. By the beard of Holy St. Andrew, our Lord would ſacrifice us as accomplices, ſhould we return without them."

This converſation ſunk to the very ſoul of Jane.

"Alas!" ſhe ſaid, "theſe are our purſuers! What will become of us!"

"Fear

"Fear not, my love," exclaimed Eldred, "I will protect you, while life exists!"

"Then, my Lord," said Andrew, "the moſt certain way of doing that, will be to run away; for take my word, you will not long have life, if you remain here." "Silence," interrupted his maſter.

By this time a party of armed men appeared, and confirmed their ſuſpicions; which, however, they as quickly diſpelled, by enquiring whether a company of horſemen had not paſſed. Being anſwered, no! they informed our travellers, thoſe horſemen had ſurprized the caſtle of a neighbouring Baron, which they had plundered, and

that

that they were in purſuit of the robbers; wiſhed Eldred and his companions a pleaſant journey, and departed.

After tarrying ſome time, the ſky began to clear; the water which till then had fallen ſtrong as a cataract, now ſcarcely dropped at all, and heaven's artillery rolled at a diſtance, till it gradually died away.

CHAP. IV.

A little lowly hermitage it was,
Down in a dale, hard by a foreſt ſide,
Farre from reſort of people that did paſs
In travell to and fro: a little wide
There was an holy chappell edified,
Wherein the hermit duly went to ſay
His holy things each morn and even tide:
Thereby a chryſtal ſtream did gently play,
Which from a ſacred fountain welled forth away.

SPENSER.

THEY then continued their progreſs, and arrived in an extenſive valley, ſurrounded by a hanging wood. The rays of the God of Day, who was faſt retiring for the night, caſt a delightful ſhade, and added to the beauty of the ſcene. Through the dale, over a pebbled bed, meandered a bubbling ſtream, flanked on each ſide by mourn-

ful

ful willows. Caſting their eyes around in wonder, at the door of a cell they deſcried a man veſted in hermit's garb, who ſate apparently in melancholy reverie. Around the porch were interwoven jaſmines and honey-ſuckles, the fragrance of which was odoriferous.

The Anchorite, on obſerving our travellers, approached and requeſted them, in a ſtyle more ſuited to the poliſhed air of a courtier than the uſual addreſs of a recluſe, to enter his dwelling; to which they conſented, marvelling what could have induced a man who ſeemed deſigned by Nature for the higheſt ſphere, thus to ſeclude himſelf, particularly as he was not of an age to loſe all reliſh for the pleaſures of ſociety. The traces on his features ſeem-

ed

ed rather the effect of cruel retroſpection than of time; yet had it not deſtroyed that grace and affability, which accompanied his every word and geſture. Nor was their wonder diminiſhed, when they eſpied a ſuit of armour ſuſpended from the ſtony roof.

"Enter," he cried, "my humble dwelling, and accept a hearty welcome, which will be your only ſauce to the poor fare that I can ſet before you."

"*A good appetite is the beſt ſauce*," ſaid Andrew, hurrying out to turn the horſes looſe, that he might the ſooner be enabled to convince them there was truth in his aſſertion.

The Hermit then produced ſome excellent fruit, and water from the rivu-

let

let that flowed before his door; of which Eldred and his fair companion partook ſparingly. In the mean time, Andrew, having diſpatched his buſineſs, quickly proved, by the attack he made on the proviſions, that abſtinence was not in the liſt of his philoſophic virtues. "Aye," ſays he, "this is as it ſhould be. After the outſide has been ſo mauled, as that of my unhappy carcaſe has, 'tis fit the inſide ſhould be well lined, to ſupport the whole caſe. To be ſure, your beverage is none of the ſtrongeſt. I have been well buffetted by this element any time for the laſt hour; but, thank Heaven, my philoſophy can reconcile any thing; and as you have no wine, here's my ſervice to you in water."

Their

Their repaſt ended, the Anchorite, who called himſelf Ambroſe, was intruſted with the hiſtory of the young fugitives, concealing only their names; on which he made them the offer of his habitation as a refuge, until the ſearch, which would neceſſarily be made after them, ſhould ſubſide. This friendly propoſal they joyfully accepted; and the daughter of Wallace being provided with a ſtraw bed, the only one the place afforded, retired; while the Hermit, Glencairn, and Andrew, drew round a good peat fire for the night.

The ſubſequent morning, after regaling themſelves, Jane and her lover walked into the ſurrounding wood, when ſhe, faint for want of that reſt which her perturbed ſtate of mind had denied

denied her during the night, resolved to seek it under the shadow of some kindly tree; she therefore desired Eldred to leave her, with which he complied, and traversed the grove for some time. But how can his horror be described, when on his return he saw not Jane. Half frantic, he loudly called upon her name, but all in vain! At length he bethought himself, that possibly she might have taken her way to the hermitage; and hasting thither, met his trusty servant.

"Andrew," cried he, "hast thou seen the Lady Jane? I quitted her for a short time, and on coming to the spot again, my longing eyes to no purpose looked for her."

"My

"My Lord," replied his attendant, "there is an old adage, and a very true one, that *After joy comes ſorrow.*"

"Have you ſeen her?" returned the impatient Eldred.

"No, my Lord," ſaid he; "but let us go in queſt of her; *Seek till you find, and you'll rarely loſe your labour!*"

Regardleſs of theſe obſervations, Glencairn made for the cell of Ambroſe, and enquired of the holy man, whether his miſtreſs had been there; on being anſwered in the negative, with wild deſpair pictured in his frenzy-rolling eye, again he darted amidſt the impervious ſhade of the encircling foreſt, making it re-echo with his cries, till

till exhauſted nature yielded beneath her burden, and he ſunk ſupine upon the ground.

Ambroſe, who, with Andrew, had been the whole day in ſearch of Eldred, found him at laſt in the ſituation before mentioned; his face wrapped in the plaid robe he wore, and his brown locks wet with the evening dew.

Deaf to the intreaties of the Hermit, he remained immoveable, till ſoftened by the perſevering and reiterated ſupplications of Andrew and the good man, he ſuffered them to conduct him unto the hermitage. On his arrival, the agitation his ſpirits had ſuſtained brought on a raging fever, ſo deſperate,

that for ſeveral days his life was deſpaired of; during which time his hoſt adminiſtered ſuch drugs as the produce of the earth enabled him to prepare. But conſcious that his patient's mind ſtood moſt in need of medicine, he took the earlieſt opportunity that returning reaſon offered on the part of Eldred, to inculcate the principles of religion, and ſoothe his tortured ſoul.

"My ſon," ſaid he, "reflect that the ways of Providence are blind and intricate! Shall poor weak man attempt to reaſon, and ſay to Power Almighty, thou haſt done amiſs? Bow with ſubmiſſion to the will of Heaven, and pour that precious cordial patience on your heart."

"True,"

"True," cried Andrew, "*Patience is a plaiſter for all ſores!*"

"Ah, father!" exclaimed Glencairn, "to the inſenſate feelings of an anchorite, my grief, I know, appears extravagant. But how can one, ſecluded from the world, judge of thoſe ſenſations by which the ſuſceptible paſſions of frailer mortals are actuated? Had you, indeed, ever known what it is to love, and have the idol of your ſoul thus torn away, you might with juſtice reaſon on my caſe."

"True, again," ſaid the philoſophic ſquire, "*None know the weight of another's burden.*"

At the latter part of Eldred's ſpeech, the ſcalding drop rolled down the Hermit's cheek: after a time he thus replied—

"Alas, my ſon! you know not what you have innocently done; probed a wound, which, though long ſince received, is not, nor ever will be healed."

"*It's ill healing an old ſore!*" ejaculated Andrew.

"Had I ever loved!" continued Ambroſe; "Oh! did you know my long ſad ſufferings, your own, heavy as you think them, placed in the ſcale againſt mine, would ſtrike the

the beam; and notwithſtanding the repetition of them will rouze a train of gloomy reflections, that for a moment ſcarce have ſlumbered, yet will I recount them, that by compariſon you may learn to bear with reſignation the ills allotted to you."

"You had better not," cried the ſquire of Glencairn, "*When ſorrow is aſleep wake it not.*"

Unmindful of Andrew's remarks, the Recluſe commenced his narrative.

CHAP. V.

He had been a ſoldier in his youth,
And fought in famous battles.

HOME.

"I AM the ſole ſurviving branch of a noble houſe, richer in honour than in wealth. My father, knowing the ſcanty fortunes he poſſeſſed were inſufficient to ſupport the dignities of his family, reſolved that his only ſon, myſelf, ſhould never, if poſſible to prevent it, feel the want of riches.

"You are, I know," he would ſay, "above all mercenary thoughts, and far be it ever from me to endeavour at inſtilling

inſtilling them into your boſom. But I, from long experience, can affirm how feeble are the ſtruggles of mental worth, unleſs backed by that perſuaſive advocate, gold. Trace the world through; behold the verieſt wretch that treads the ſurface of the earth, and if bedecked in ſplendor, you ſhall ſee him take the ſenior hand of threadbare honeſty; which, like the ſun obſcured behind a watery cloud, at intervals darts forth a pallid ray, to ſhew the world the beauties that he owns, and which the hand of Envy ſtrives to hide.

"Do not, from this," continued he, "infer you ſhould deſpiſe wealth. No, conſider it as the beſt gift of Heaven, provided you have the bleſſing to un-

derſtand the proper uſe of it, which ſurely is, that thoſe who moſt abound may have the ſatisfaction of relieving others that are undeſervedly neceſſitous."

"By the maſs," interrupted Andrew, "a ſenſible ſhrewd remark, and I have a proverb will confirm the truth of it; *Riches are like manure, offenſive in a heap, but ſpread abroad make the earth fruitful.*"

"Your obſervation bears the ſtamp of reaſon," replied Ambroſe; "but to reſume my tale; for the reaſon beforementioned, I was bade prepare to ſail for France, where at that time Mars ſhone in all his ſplendor. With rapture I ſhould have obeyed the order, had

had not a magnet, even more attractive than the love of fame, influenced my ſtay.

" Near to the caſtle of my father lived a rich and haughty Chief, whoſe daughter had charms potent enough to captivate the icy breaſt of cold inſenſibility. No wonder then that I, at an age when the ſuſceptible heart is prone as wax to take impreſſions, ſhould be ſubdued; nor was the lovely conqueror, as I thought, inſenſible to what I ſuffered; nay, ſhe has confeſſed ſhe loved me, but vowed never to become my bride without the aſſent of her parent.

" This I almoſt deſpaired to obtain, well knowing his predominant foible

was ambition, to which he would have ſacrificed every thing moſt dear to him. However, to ſanguine love nothing appears unattainable, and, with the concurrence of my father, I demanded the hand of the Baron's daughter.

"And who art thou," cried he, "who pretendeſt to it? What feats of heroic proweſs haſt thou accompliſhed, or is they name diſtinguiſhed amongſt the Chieftains of the North? Thy ſhield is not inſcribed with any bold and valorous atchievement, nor are thy deeds rehearſed by the breath of applauding minſtrels. Gain thee a name in arms, and then aſpire to my envied alliance. Moreover, I command my daughter to forbear thy preſence;

fence; thou ſhalt have no farther opportunity to wean her from her duty."

"On this I left the caſtle, nettled at his ill opinion of myſelf, and want of confidence in a child, whoſe every action implied obedience.

"The time for my departure now drew nigh; and diſappointed in my fondeſt wiſh, I counted every hour, impatient for that which was to bear me from my native country, hoping in battle ſome friendly ſword would deprive me of an exiſtence now become hateful.

"All attempts to ſee my miſtreſs proved ineffectual; and the only con-

ſolation I experienced, was that of receiving a letter from her.

"Farewel," ſaid ſhe in it, "Heaven knows no youth but you ever had an intereſt in my heart. May the angel who regards true and virtuous love, bear a ſhield before thee in the field of ſlaughter, endue thy ſword with power reſiſtleſs, and bring thee back to my fond arms encrowned with laurels! Speedy be thy return; and oh, remember me! Gay and courtly dames, ſkilled in the artful language of feducement, may ſtrive to allure thee, but their love cannot equal mine."

"In her letter ſhe encloſed me a ring, as token of her unſhaken conſtancy.

"I in-

"I inſtantly anſwered her billet, in which I ſtrove to picture the agonies I endured; conjuring her by the tenderneſs ſhe acknowledged for me, not to marry until ſhe heard I was no more; as I was reſolved to return with affluence, or never to return. That ſhould fortune deign to be propitious, I would claim her hand as the recompence of my toils, and that I was certain her father would not in that caſe refuſe it; as ſhe well knew to my birth he could make no exception; want of riches was my ſole detriment, and ſhould that cauſe be removed, no obſtacle would remain.

"Having diſpatched a truſty meſſenger with it, and a bracelet in return for the pledge ſhe had ſent me, with a heavy

heavy heart I ſet out for Edinburgh; thence I embarked for France, and on my landing inſtantly joined the army of the Gallic King, by whom I was courteouſly received.

"Various were the different ſkirmiſhes, and tedious to relate; it is enough to ſay, that for a length of time the genius of the Britiſh arms prevailed, till by the aſſiſtance of a maid, named Joan la Pucelle, the ſcale was turned in our favour. She put us into poſſeſſion of Orleans, routed our foes, and reſtored, in a great degree, the glory of France, which the repeated conqueſts of the Black Prince Edward, and his illuſtrious deſcendant, Henry the Fifth, had diminiſhed. Her name was honoured throughout the kingdom,

and

and the halls of the Gallic Barons rung with the fame of this heroic virgin.

"Fortune ſtill continued to befriend us, till fate deprived us of our guardian angel. Joan, impelled by a furious ardor, ruſhed on the foe, and being ſeparated from her party, fell into the hands of the Duke of York; who, far from revering her courageous conduct, ſentenced her to the ſtake.

"The rumour of her caption ſpread like wildfire through our hoſt, and acted on it as a ſpell: the ſoldiers, panic ſtruck, fled from the field of battle, and were purſued with ſlaughter. I myſelf eſcaped with difficulty, and rode till night, which was ſo dark that not a ſtar was to be diſcovered in the firmament.

firmament. My ſituation was diſtreſſing, and both myſelf and horſe had occaſion for refreſhment, which I could not perceive a probability of obtaining; when I obſerved a light at no great diſtance, and inſtantly ſpurred towards it, but, to my mortification, loſt ſight of my beacon; at length again it glimmered, and on coming near, I found it iſſue from a hut ſurrounded by a clump of lofty trees.

"I knocked at the door, which was opened by a man ſtricken in years, whoſe countenance was the moſt diſguſting I ever beheld. His perſon was far above the common ſize, and his ſhoulders ſo robuſt they reminded me of the ſinewy Atlas; his profile was concave, with a noſe of ſo enormous a length,

a length, it joined in contact with a chin that ended in a curved point. His ſmall grey eyes were nearly obſcured by a pair of pent-houſe brows, that reſembled the ſhaggy covering of the bear; nor was his voice unlike the roaring of that ill-favoured animal.

"Having recovered from the ſurprize into which his uncouth appearance had thrown me, I informed him, through the darkneſs of the night I had miſtaken my road, that the ſame cauſe rendered it almoſt impoſſible for me to recover it again, and I ſhould be indebted to his hoſpitality if he would give me lodging till break of day. This artifice I conceived myſelf authorized to practiſe, as that part of the country

country was entirely devoted to the Engliſh.

"Endeavouring to ſmooth his hideous features to a ſmile of complacency, "Enter," ſaid he, "and ſuch entertainment as my hovel affords is your's."

"I thanked him; and, after leading my ſteed under an adjacent penthouſe, followed the old man into the houſe.

"On ſeating myſelf to ſupper, he entreated me to lay aſide my ſword; this I declined, at which he ſeemed chagrined; however I kept my falchion by my ſide, and after having allayed

allayed my appetite, begged he would ſhew me to my bed. Taking a lamp, he conducted me up a ladder to a room, or rather loft, where ſetting down the light he left me.

"I threw myſelf on the pallet in my armour, and wiled away the time in a retroſpection of my paſt life; when caſting an eye on one corner of the room I perceived the floor much diſcoloured. Curioſity prompted me to a nearer inveſtigation, and on looking cloſe, I found it ſtained with blood.

"But I perceive the hand of Somnus lies heavy on your brow, refreſh yourſelf with ſleep, and in the

the morning I will continue my narrative."

They then retired for the night, and on the morrow Father Ambroſe purſued his ſtory.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

——————Now purſue
The fated youth, tho' words are ſure too weak
To ſpeak his horror.

KEATE.

"AN involuntary horror ſeized me, and made my ſeated heart knock at my ribs, as though it would have burſt its priſon. It inſtantly occurred to me, the houſe had been the ſeat of murder, and that probably I was deſtined to the ſame wretched end."

"I had ſcarce made my comment on the ſcene before me, ere my attention was again rouſed by the clatter of approaching horſes, and I ſoon heard their riders tap gently at the portal, which

which being opened, they aſked if any company was within."

"Aye," replied the hoary villain, "there is a young man above, who, if one may judge from appearance, will yield ſomething handſome. He has not yet had time to compoſe himſelf to that reſt, which he little dreams will be his laſt."

"Silence Dubois," replied another voice, "we ſhall depend on you for the execution of this buſineſs, as an affair of moment calls us hence."

"And you may depend on me," ſaid the old man, "it is not the firſt time. This good dagger has never yet failed me, and I will anſwer it does not now.

now. However, before you depart, drink one cup of wine to the ſucceſs of my undertaking; here is part of a flaſk that I opened for the credulous fool, who ſhall pay dearly for it."

"Having drank, the horſemen mounted, and galloped off, leaving me in a ſtate of mind, more eaſily conceived than deſcribed. I had not much time allowed me for reflection, as I heard my hoſt aſcending the ladder. I inſtantly extinguiſhed my lamp, and placing myſelf behind the door, by the pale light that invaded my chamber window, I ſaw him him enter the room, and advance to the bed, whereon he ſuppoſed his intended victim lay. I unſheathed my ſword, and ſtraitway plunged it in his heart."

"Traitor!"

"Traitor!" I exclaimed, "take from my hand, the juſt reward of thy crimes—crimes which exceed all bounds. To lure the unwary traveller to his death, under the plauſible maſk of hoſpitality, is ſure a ſpecies of unparalleled villainy. But why do I waſte my breath upon a wretch whoſe iron heart repentance cannot reach? However, if thou haſt in thy compoſition one particle of reverence for the divine Author of thy being, now, while thou haſt life, intreat forgiveneſs."

"I then hurried from the room, and having capariſoned my charger, left the accurſed manſion with all the ſpeed he was maſter of. It was ſtill ſo dark, I was compelled to ride at random, without knowing what route I took, and at the

the hazard of falling into the enemy's hands. At laſt, the welcome ſound of a diſtant bell ſaluted my ear, and looking towards the ſide from whence it iſſued, I deſcried by the rays of the ſun, that now began to ſhoot above the duſky horizon, the ſpires of a monaſtery: cheered by the ſight, my exhauſted ſtrength was renovated. Arriving at the gate, I demanded admittance, which was granted, and I uſhered into an apartment, where I found the ſuperior. He deſired me to make known, who, and what I was; the truth I did not think it politic to entruſt him with, therefore, contented myſelf by ſaying, I was about to join the army of the Duke of York."

"Your conduct," interrupted Andrew, "was a proof of your good ſenſe, and reminds me of an excellent adage. *Take heed of an ox before, an aſs behind, and a monk on all ſides!*"

"Having anſwered his inquiry," ſaid the Hermit, "I was accommodated with a miſerable couch, where, for a few hours, I enjoyed an uninterrupted ſlumber. On ariſing, I was told Father Francis was employed about the perſon of a wounded man; nevertheleſs, I might enter his chamber. I did ſo, and the firſt object that my eyes encountered was Dubois; the wretch whom I had left weltering in his blood. On my appearance, he uttered a groan, and fell back ſpeechleſs. After a pauſe, he ſhewed ſigns

ſigns of returning life, and at length being able to ſupport himſelf upon his arm exclaimed, "There ſtands my murderer!"

"I was inſtantly ſurrounded, and, ſpite of all oppoſition, diſarmed; then hurried to a melancholy dungeon, where they loaded me with chains. Thus manacled, theſe fathers of religion quitted me, guilty of no crime but ſpilling the blood of an aſſaſſin in my own defence.

Long, very long, did my confinement laſt. One morning, a member of this infernal ſociety entered my cell, telling me I muſt prepare to die, as Dubois had juſt breathed his laſt: regardleſs of life, I followed him, happy

in ſo near a proſpect of being releaſed from it."

"We came into a large hall, where the inhabitants of the monaſtery were already aſſembled, and which contained their various implements of torture. The ſuperior addreſſed me, and after artfully expatiating on the pretended enormity of my guilt, informed me the Holy-Brotherhood judged it fit I ſhould make atonement on the rack."

Thus did they ſtrive to make the murder which they were about to perpetrate appear an act of juſtice."

"*Empty veſſels make the greateſt ſound*," ſaid Andrew, "The ſcripture ſaith

faith, *A fool's voice is known by multitude of words!* Sure it is, *none more apt to boaſt than thoſe who have leaſt real worth!*"

"Silence," cried Eldred, though at the ſame time he could not forbear admiring the pertinence of the remark; then apologized for his ſervant's interruption, on which Ambroſe went on.

"Monſter!" I exclaimed to Father Francis, "profane not the ſacred name of religion, by beſtowing the appellation of holy on this fraternity of banditti, and tremble at the power of an incenſed Deity. Though for ſome wiſe and unſeen purpoſe he may awhile permit your cruelty to flouriſh, yet be aſſured a day will come, when his

all righteous judgment ſhall fall heavy on you?"

"That day is diſtant," returned he, "lead him to inſtant execution."

"This they proceeded to do, faſt binding me to the wheel; I had juſt finiſhed a ſhort fervent prayer, when the monks were ſtartled by the ſound of loud and repeated blows at the outer gate of the monaſtery; on which they armed themſelves, and ſallied forth to ſeek the cauſe of this unexpected clamour!"

CHAP,

CHAP. VII.

Sweet are the uſes of adverſity,
Which like the toad, ugly and venomous,
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head.
SHAKESPEARE.

"PRESENTLY I heard the claſh of ſwords, and the groans of the wounded grated on my ear; at length the ſhouts of victory echoed throughout the building, and the hall was filled with armed Frenchmen, who releaſed me!"

"Next to heaven, my thanks were due to theſe my preſervers, which I gave them with all the cordiality my full heart inſpired; then intreated to

know what had brought them ſo providentially to my relief."

"They told me an unhappy creature, who had miraculouſly eſcaped from the monaſtery, after a long confinement, by accident paſſed the French encampment, and deſired permiſſion to ſee the general, to whom he was admitted. He informed him he had juſt effected his emancipation from that place, and enumerated the ſeveral barbarities inflicted by thoſe ſanctified impoſtors. Upon which a detachment was ordered to attend the ſtranger, and to carry the place by ſtorm; this they had juſt accompliſhed, and came in time to ſave me from an ignominious death."

"From

"From this I learned, what I before ſuſpected, that my perſecutors countenanced the depredations of Dubois and his aſſociates, and that probably the ſpoils of thoſe travellers, who, had fallen by his hand, were conveyed to this holy place."

"We explored the different receſſes of the monaſtery, and delivered a long train of victims, who, for years had groaned beneath the yoke of monkiſh tyranny. Amongſt the number, were a father and his ſon, that particularly intereſted me. As we entered their dungeon, we ſaw, by the light of our torches, the old man ſtretched on the damp pavement, and faſt locked in ſleep, his head was ſupported on the knee of the youth, who watched his

ſlumbers, while the tear of filial affection dropped from his eye, and moiſtened the beard of his venerable burden!"

"On obſerving us, and in habits ſo unlike what he had been accuſtomed to while in confinement, a ſpark of hope illumined the young man's features, and burſt into a flame, on our telling him they were no longer priſoners. With tender care he awoke his parent, and imparted to him the change in their favor. Never in my life did I witneſs a ſcene of more fervent devotion, than now took place; the old man fell upon his knees, in which he was followed by his ſon, both in ſilent oriſons, expreſſing their obligation to the divinity, while the ſluices

of

of their eyes, which had before been wholly actuated by grief, now flowed in ſtreams of gratitude!"

"We then departed with thoſe Friars who had eſcaped the ſwords of the ſoldiery. On our arrival at the camp, I made myſelf known to the Commander, to whom I repeated my adventures, and was received by him in a manner ſuitable to my birth; but, ſpite of my endeavours to ſave the lives of my enemies, on the following morning they were all executed: a dreadful example, that a day of retribution, however tardy, is certain to arrive!"

"I remained in the army ſome three years, without the comfort of the leaſt

intelligence from Scotland. At the battle of ——, it was my fortune to encounter a man, whoſe arms and deportment beſpoke him above the common ſtamp. Our ſtrife was long and hardy, until my tempered ſteel cleaving his creſt in twain, put an end to the combat, and to the life of my brave adverſary."

"Thy genius has prevailed," he faintly articulated, "and well doſt thou deſerve to conquer; accept this trifle as a teſtimony of the eſteem, which even a vanquiſhed enemy profeſſes for you." So ſaying, he preſented me with a caſket. "Do juſtice to my memory," cried he, "and let it not be your leaſt boaſt, that by your arm, fell Lord ——."

"At

"At that word, death cut ſhort his utterance, and a retreat being ſounded on our part, I unwillingly quitted the body, ignorant of the name of my generous antagoniſt."

"I embraced the firſt opportunity to examine my gift. How did I glut my ſight on the precious ſtore preſented to it? Not for the love of wealth, but that I flattered myſelf, it would put me in poſſeſſion of her I adored."

"About the ſame time a truce being concluded between the contending kingdoms, I embarked for Scotland. During our paſſage, we one morning obſerved a large veſſel bearing down upon us with all the ſail ſhe could

could crowd, and on her nearer appearance, found her by the colours to be an Algerine."

"Our ſituation was perilous, as the ſize of their bark exceeded ours too much, for us to entertain a thought of conquering them; and ſo puſillanimous was our captain, that he talked of quietly ſurrendering. This I ſtrenuouſly oppoſed, preferring death to a ſtate of abject bondage. I therefore ſummoned the crew, and made them acquainted with my determination, not to yield tamely, conjuring them, if the ſlighteſt ember of courage glowed within them, to follow my example, and ſtrive to repel the infidels."

"This

"This they vowed to do; and the enemy being come up, grappled with, and attempted to board us: long we fought with an ardor the love of liberty alone could inſpire, till the ſlaughter which reigned amidſt our little band, rendered all farther oppoſition fruitleſs, and our colours were ſtruck. Petrified at the idea of becoming a ſlave, at a time I flattered myſelf ſecure of laſting felicity, my reaſon forſook me, and I ſingly ſought to repel the foe, but all in vain; a blow from a battle-axe laid me inſenſate on the deck, and I became their priſoner.

"On recovering, I muſt own, the patience and philoſophy with which my vocation now urges me to arm the wretched, was then ill obſerved by myſelf.

myſelf. I daſhed my head againſt the veſſel's ſide; and ſhould have buried my ſorrows in a watery grave, had I not been prevented. Alas! I was deſtined to experience ſtill ſeverer trials!

"The victors ſtood for their own coaſt, on gaining which, my companions were all diſpoſed of, Muley Abdallah, the Commander, reſerving only myſelf. He took me with him to a ſmall, but elegant, caſtle, that ſtood without the city gates; where I was deſtined to the humble employment of a gardener. However, as I ſeemed to be the ſport of fortune, I hoped the ſame caprice that had caſt me into ſlavery, would, ere it was long, releaſe me. Full of theſe ſanguine thoughts, I became

I became more calm, and comforted myself with the resolution of not letting slip an opportunity, should any offer, of making my escape.

"I attended my plants, and making a virtue of necessity, tried, by my assiduity, to gain my master's favour and confidence, that so his vigilance might relax, and afford me the earlier season of regaining my liberty."

"Sitting one evening, after having compleated my daily task, upon a bench beneath the castle, a billet fell at my feet. I took it up, and withdrew to a secret part of the garden, where I opened the letter, and read these lines:

"CHRIS-

"CHRISTIAN,

"You will doubtleſs be ſur-
"prized at finding yourſelf addreſſed
"in a place where you are an entire
"ſtranger; but let the Deity who de-
"lighteth in goodly actions enable
"you to ſupport your lot with forti-
"tude. Know you have a friend, to
"whom ALLA has given the power
"and inclination to befriend you. To
"your honour I confide a ſecret,
"which, if divulged, plunges myſelf
"and you in miſery. It is in vain I
"have endeavoured to combat a paſ-
"ſion that can never be removed un-
"til the angel of death cloſes my eyes,
"and wafts me to the bleſſed manſion
"of our holy Prophet. My father,
"Muley Abdallah, will ſhortly leave
"the caſtle, then will I effect your li-

beration

" beration and return to your own
" country. Think not too lightly of
" me for this my candid confeſſion,
" but reſt aſſured you ſhall receive
" your deliverance from the hand of

" SELIMA."

" This letter was a cordial to my mind. I peruſed it over and again, fearful I was but in a dream: yet when the firſt ſallies of my unbounded joy abated, and reaſoned reſumed her empire, I found my happineſs much leſſened by the declaration of love made me by the daughter of Muley Abdallah; my affection for another, my honour, my religion forbade my making a ſuitable return."

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Hope, of all paſſions, moſt befriends us here;
Paſſions of prouder name befriend us leſs.

YOUNG.

"A WEEK of alternate hope and anxiety elapſed, when a female ſlave accoſted me, deſiring I would meet her at ſun-ſet in the ſouth alcove. So ſaying, ſhe ſuddenly diſappeared.

"At the decline of day I repaired to my rendezvous, and was ſhortly after joined by the faithful confidant, who bad me follow her. We entered the caſtle, and aſcended a flight of ſtairs which led to the apartments of Selima, whom I found in one of them on a rich ſofa.

ſofa. On ſeeing me ſhe roſe, and lifting up her veil, preſented the greateſt aſſemblage of charms I ever witneſſed; at the ſame time requeſting I would partake of her ſeat.

"I fear," ſhe ſaid, her face ſuffuſed by the bluſh of modeſty, "I fear, to one accuſtomed to the ſtrict etiquette of European women, my conduct muſt appear inconſiſtent with the delicacy of my ſex; but there was no time to be loſt in ceremonious punctilio. My father is at preſent abroad, how ſoon he may return is uncertain. I have provided for your eſcape, which muſt be this night. A renegado captain, who is under ſome obligation to me, has undertaken to convey you to your native land. Even now he tarries for you,

you, loſe not a moment, ſome miſchievous ſtroke of fortune may prevent you elſe."

"A ſenſible lady!" quoth Andrew. "Aye, *Many things fall out between the cup and the lip.*"

"I endeavoured to expreſs my thanks," ſaid the Hermit, "and hoped ſhe would not accuſe me of ingratitude when I owned my ſole reaſon for wiſhing to return homeward, was the fond hope of again beholding the woman, to whom, before my departure, my vows were pledged.

"I mentioned this abruptly, fearful ſhe ſhould have formed any thought of accompanying me; but much I wrong-

ed

ed her. She replied, with a ſmile, in which ſhe attempted to ſmother her agitation: "Your candor charms me: Farewel! This eunuch will conduct you to a veſſel. May you be happy in the arms of her you love; and ſometimes, in the midſt of your felicity, beſtow a thought on Selima, whoſe conſtant prayers ſhall be for your proſperity."

"I preſſed her hand to my lips, and departed, ſtrongly impreſſed with admiration of her generous conduct. I followed my guide to the beach, and finding the galley in perfect readineſs, I rewarded the ſlave and embarked.

"Never did I experience a night of more real ſatisfaction. I ſate on the deck,

deck, ruminating on my paſt misfortunes, and anticipating my future happineſs, while the ſwelling boſom of the ſail was filled by the breath of zephyr, and our prow cut through the green boſom of the glaſſy ocean."

"After a pleaſant voyage, I landed at Leith; and recompenſing the ſervice of the captain, proceeded to the manſion of my forefathers. By what various emotions was I actuated as I journeyed thither! I was received at the gate by the ſteward, a venerable man, who had ſpent his youth in our family.

"He ſtarted at the ſight of me, as though he had ſeen an apparition. "Doſt thou not know me, Charles?" ſaid I.

"My

"My young Lord!" he exclaimed. "Is it poſſible? Is it you?"

"How is my beloved father?" I returned.

"Alas!" cried he, "I have a melancholy ſtory to relate; but enter the caſtle, and you ſhall know every circumſtance that has occurred ſince your quitting it."

"You had not been gone twelve months, before a Scots Chief, on a dark night, claimed ſhelter here from the inclemency of the elements, which I need not tell you was granted; for never did traveller paſs theſe walls without refreſhment. In the courſe of converſation, he ſaid he was juſt re-

turned from the French wars. Your father eagerly embraced the opportunity to enquire after his ſon; but lightning could not have ſtruck him harder than the anſwer of his gueſt, who told him you had periſhed in battle.

"Never from that time did my Lord receive the ſmalleſt comfort, and the burden of grief laid ſo heavy on his frame, that the ſtrings of his heart cracked, and he ſunk into the grave.

"Your miſtreſs, who appeared inconſolable at the tidings of your death, ſome time after gave her hand to another; but a few years only had ſhe been married, when the rumour that ſhe was no more reached my ear.

"By

"By the deceaſe of your father, and the report of your own demiſe, the eſtates became the King's, to whom I have punctually remitted the rents; but who will, no doubt, with pleaſure reſtore them.

"This is the melancholy greeting I am compelled to give you; and I pray Heaven, who has guarded you through the ſlaughter of the war, may endue you with reſignation!"

"Horror-ſtruck at theſe dreadful tidings, diſappointed at the death of my parent, and at the inconſtancy and ſubſequent deceaſe of my miſtreſs, I yielded myſelf a prey to black deſpair, and determined to devote the rem-

nant of my days in the ſervice of our bleſſed Redeemer, by enrolling myſelf under the banner of the Knights of Malta, and combating the enemies of my religion.

"I therefore withdrew privately from the caſtle, as I well knew if Charles became acquainted with my deſign, he would oppoſe it with every argument he was maſter of. I travelled the whole day, taking no nutriment, ſave what the earth afforded, and ſlacking my thirſt at ſome running brook, till the ſable mantle of night was ſpread over the ſurface of the earth, and the thick falling dew warned me to ſeek ſome place where I might lay my wretched head; in vain were my

ſearches,

ſearches, and exhauſted nature forced me to repoſe my wearied body on the wet graſs.

" The beams of the ruddy god no ſooner diffuſed their genial heat, than I aroſe, and purſuing my way, arrived in this valley. The ſequeſtered ſituation, the willows bending over the purling ſtream, preſented a ſtriking portrait of my own ſtate, and induced me to exchange my armour for the garb and cowl of an Hermit.

" Here have I ſince remained, and the chearing warmth of twelve genial ſprings have chaced the wintery ſnow from off the neighbouring mountains, ſince my arrival. Now, from my re-

peated miſeries, draw a leſſon that may teach you to bear your own with patience, and, by compariſon, to conſider them as light."

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

How charming is divine Philoſophy!
Not harſh and crabbed, as dull fools ſuppoſe,
But muſical as is Apollo's lute,
And a perpetual feaſt of nectar'd ſweets,
Where no crude ſurfeit reigns. MILTON.

ELDRED thanked the Anchorite, and would fain have profited by his advice; but the loſs of his beloved miſtreſs had fixed a barbed arrow in his heart, the gangrene wound of which the hand of philoſophy could not heal.

He remained with Father Ambroſe until his bodily health was reſtored, when again the remembrance of Jane drove him almoſt to deſperation.

"Good

"Good Heaven!" he cried, "my sufferings are more than I can endure."

"Remember, my Lord," said Andrew, "*Crosses are ladders that do lead to Heaven.*"

"Come," exclaimed Glencairn, his eyes burning with fury, "in the very [illegible]ion of Donald will I seek the raviſher, for ſure it muſt be him, and—"

"*Valour can do little without diſcretion*," returned Andrew, "*and an ounce of the latter, is worth a pound of wit.*"

"Why, what wouldſt thou have me do?"

"*In vain he craves advice that will not take it.*" "No

"No more, I charge thee; if thou canſt afford me no conſolation, for thy life attempt not to trifle with my feelings."

"*Fall not out with thy friend for a trifle.*"

"Well, well, my honeſt fellow, I have been haſty, I pray you pardon me."

"I do," ſaid Andrew; "*Happy is he who knows his follies in his youth.*"

The impetuous ſallies of paſſion on the part of Eldred, were reſtrained by the perſuaſive arguments of his attendant; and it was ſettled they ſhould abandon the Hermitage on the follow-

ing day. They made their intention known to Father Ambroſe, who intreated his noble gueſt, but in vain, to prolong his ſtay.

On the enſuing morn, the Recluſe drew from his breaſt a caſket.

"This," ſaid he, "is the legacy of an expiring foe. I treaſured it, hoping it would have proved the means of uniting me to her I adored. Thoſe thoughts are cruſhed for ever! Accept this as a memorial of one, who though but a ſhort time honoured with your acquaintance, has for you a ſincere reſpect."

So ſaying, he took out a ring, which he preſented to Glencairn, who thanked him

him for his preſent; but on looking at it, the blood forſook his cheek, and his whole frame was convulſed at perceiving it bore the creſt of his family. The myſtery in which his father's fate was wrapped, the time the jewels were given, ſerved to confirm his ſuſpicions, that 'twas he had fallen beneath the arm of Ambroſe; yet could he not account for his parent having ſerved in the Engliſh army. Again he thought, he might have been influenced by ſome grievance, to oppoſe the intereſts of France, and for that reaſon had privately abſconded from Scotland. To cenſure his hoſt would be an act of injuſtice, as to the fortune of war he ſtood indebted for his loſs.

These were the feelings that tore his mind; he instantly ordered his charger, and taking an abrupt leave of the Anchorite, whom he could not see but with horror, vaulted into his saddle, and hastened from the valley.

He rode towards the mansion of Wallace, and dismounted at twilight at the cottage of Maud, whom he questioned concerning Jane.

"On the first news of your flight," answered she, "Sir James and Donald, attended by their retainers, followed you; but to my great surprize, on the subsequent evening, the former returned without his guest, denouncing the curse of an irritated parent on his daughter, and vowing he would no farther

farther purſue her, but leave her to reap the juſt reward of her diſobedience. This ſtartled me, and I am now convinced ſhe is in their hands, but where they have ſecreted her, heaven knows."

This intelligence increaſed Eldred's anxiety.

"Let us be gone, Andrew," he cried, "to the dwelling of this accurſed rival: dearly ſhall he make atonement for his villainy!"

In vain were Maud's endeavours to diſſuade him from his purpoſe; in vain ſhe painted the dangers he muſt neceſſarily encounter, and the improbability of deriving any ſucceſs from his raſh project.

"You

"You forget," ſaid he, "the name I bear, never did baſe fear, or the thought of danger invade the mind of my illuſtrious race, nor will I be the firſt to ſully ſuch a line of anceſtors. Loud is their praiſe in mouths of wiſeſt men, and oft are their deeds recorded to the ſound of the lyre. As to the improbability of my ſucceſs, the omnipotent Being will determine, as may ſeem beſt to him, and ſhould I periſh in the attempt, poſterity will peruſe my fate with regret."

So ſaying, in oppoſition to the ſtrenuous intreaties of Maud, he mounted his ſteed, and attended by Andrew, ſhaped his courſe northward.

On

On the ſecond evening, he deſcried the ſtupenduous battlements of Donald's manſion, rearing their rugged heads above the horizon in awful majeſty.

Advancing towards it he met a youth, whoſe military accoutrements beſpoke him one of Donald's retinue; and on examining his countenance, the air of ingenuouſneſs with which it was ſtrongly imprinted, prompted Eldred to make his confidante, and to endeavour by gold, that all-perſuaſive argument, to win him to his intereſt.

He accoſted him with ſome trivial queſtion, aſking whoſe was the adjacent manſion; after which, he informed the ſtranger

ſtranger it was in his power to ſerve him eſſentially.

"My gratitude," ſaid he, "ſhall not be confined to the ſtale trick of words; I mean to give a more ſubſtantial proof of it. Take this purſe, and reſt aſſured that contains but a moiety of the acknowledgment I will make, provided you befriend me."

"Your look," replied the ſoldier, "beſpeaks you noble. I think, from your appearance, you would yourſelf ſcorn a bribe. Why then ſhould you ſuppoſe me guilty of accepting one? Is it becauſe I wear this humble dreſs? If ſo, learn from me, that the dreſs of a hind often covers a heart, which would not degrade the gaudy mantle of a monarch.

a monarch. If I can aſſiſt you, I ſhall with pleaſure do it. But reſt aſſured, if my inclination does not prompt me, it never ſhall be ſaid, Edric was biaſſed by the love of lucre!"

Theſe words charmed Glencairn, who was perſuaded that at leaſt, in this inſtance, the face was an index of the mind. He inſtantly imparted his buſineſs to the ſtranger, who confeſſed Jane was within the caſtle; at the ſame time, he acknowledged the injuſtice of Donald, and vowed to forward the ſchemes of Eldred as much as in him lay.

Our hero expreſſed his ſenſe of the obligation, and demanded by what method he could beſt gain admiſſion to

the habitation of Donald. Edric told him he had another military ſuit with which he would accommodate him, and by that artifice, enable him to paſs the centinel as one of the garriſon.

Glencairn applauded the mental abilities of the ſoldier, who went in queſt of his armour, with which returning in a ſhort time, the former equipped himſelf therein; then, having the watch-word, he departed on his enterprize, leaving his Squire with Edric, who undertook to lodge him with a friend, where he might tarry for his Lord.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

'Tis true, unruffled and ſerene, I've met
The common accidents of life, but here
Such an unlook'd for ſtorm of ills fall on me,
It beats down all my ſtrength.

Addison.

ELDRED croſſed the draw-bridge without the leaſt ſuſpicion, and had ſcarce entered the court-yard, when his ear was ſaluted by the jocund ſound of feſtivity. He entered the building, and making his way to that part whence the noiſe proceeded, he came to a hall which was decorated by the arms and banners of its various poſſeſſors. Here he found a goodly company ſacrificing largely to Bacchus: ſwiftly was the mantling goblet paſſed around,

while

while the warlike deeds of the Scottiſh Chieftains rung through the ſtately edifice!

Eldred, darting a look around, ſaw at the farther end his rival, and Jane ſeated by him, over whoſe ſpirits, neither the juice of the grape, nor the voice of the bard, had the leaſt influence. Pale melancholy was pictured in her features; her face was averted from the hated ſociety wherein ſhe was compelled to mix, while the briny moiſture from her eye fell in the ſparkling cup, and diluted the potent beverage.

The ſight of his miſtreſs fired the ſoul of Glencairn: hardly could he refrain from ſacrificing the raviſher in the

the midſt of his adherents; but policy prevented him, and he determined to counteract the villainy of Donald by ſtratagem.

Long did he continue at the caſtle, without the happineſs of communicating a word to the loved object who had brought him thither; when, as he ſtood reclining againſt his beachen ſpear in painful rumination, the Highland Chief paſſed near him, and fixed his eyes ſtedfaſtly on him; then, ſuddenly withdrawing them, left the court-yard. Our hero was in amazement, he naturally conjectured he was known; ſtill he determined not to abandon the place without making Jane his companion.

His

His ſuſpicions, however, were ſoon evaporated, by the Baron taking no farther notice of him, and fortune ſoon after favored his wiſhes. As his miſtreſs was enjoying the cool evening breeze upon the terrace, he found means to convey a letter, unperceived, into her hand, imparting the danger he encountered for her ſake, and with every tender argument, ſoliciting an interview that night, near the weſtern tower, as his friend Edric would have charge of the draw-bridge, who would enable him to ſnatch her from the captivity in which ſhe languiſhed.

Eldred waited with anxiety the inſeparable companion of love, till he thought the inhabitants of the caſtle buried in ſleep, then flew upon the wings

wings of impatience to the appointed ſpot. Long did he tarry, but no Jane appeared. Furious at his diſappointment, he was about to retire, when the diſtant view of a female, again rekindled his hopes, and in a minute he held the daughter of Wallace in his arms. Fain would he have chid, but joy reſtrained his tongue from any language, ſave what love inſpired. With rapture he ſtrained her to his breaſt, apprehenſive he ſhould be once more deprived of her.

Thus does the ſhipwrecked mariner—when wan deſpair forbids the thought of ever regaining land, by chance ſome friendly billow wafts him towards a rock, where cloſe he clings, and

and fears the impetuous surge will tear him from his only hope!

With eagerness did Glencairn hurry cross the draw-bridge, where he was joined by his Squire, who had received from Edric intimation of his master's design.

"These excursions," said Andrew, "may be vastly entertaining to you, my Lord and Lady, who are lovers, who can banquet on each other's words, and warm yourselves with the breath of mutual protestations. But, for my part, I would rather have been employed in feasting on a well-fed capon, and a flaggon of wine. Here have I tarried, till I am perfectly a walking piece of ice; my body is now in as cold

cold a ſtate as the ſummit of Arthur's ſeat on a winter's night. Our horſes too are ſtolen, and by the beard of St. Andrew, which way they went, I know not: however 'tis for your ſervice I ſuffer this inconvenience, and that thought ſoftens my ſufferings."

Already they were at a diſtance from the hoſtile place, and ſafe, they thought, from the perſecution of their enemies. The tranſition from a ſituation ſo deplorable, to one directly oppoſite, produced ſuch a revolution in their tender minds, as lovers only can imagine.

They were fondly entertaining each other with mutual proteſtations, when the harſh din of footſteps faſt advanc-

ing, cauſed them to mend their pace. Taking Jane's trembling hand, Eldred hurried on, but their purſuers gained upon them, and he diſtinguiſhed the voice of Donald.

"Stop, villain!" he cried, "yield up your prize, or this moment you breathe your laſt."

They were now ſo cloſe, that all eſcape was hopeleſs. Eldred, therefore, like to the foreſt lion when at bay, placed himſelf before his fair companion, and drawing his ſword, prepared to meet his foes. Andrew followed his example; exclaiming, "*It's a hard battle where none eſcape!*"

The Lord of the Iſles, whoſe impatience quickened his ſteps, firſt came up

up and attacked his rival. They fought with valor, and Glencairn was on the point of gaining the victory, when he received a wound in the back, that brought him drowned in gore upon the earth, at which Jane uttered a piercing cry, and ſunk lifeleſs on his body, while the follower of our unfortunate hero being diſarmed, was faſt bound and gagged, and with the lady, whom they forced from her lover, conveyed to the Caſtle.

Eldred recovering from the ſwoon, wherein loſs of blood had caſt him, found himſelf deprived of his adored Jane, and manacled in chains; at which rage and indignation renewed his ſtrength.

"Cowardly aſſaſſin!" he cried, "thou diſgrace to knighthood, who canſt not rely on the ſtrength of thine own arm, but cauſeſt theſe, thy myrmidonian crew, baſely to lend thee aid! Free me from this hated bondage, reſtore my arms, renew the combat, and let the victor be rewarded with the charms of Jane."

"Fool!" retorted Donald, "thinkeſt thou I will play for that, which is my own already? No! the female thou doſt mention is within my power, even now ſhe enters my manſion, never to retrace her ſteps, till by the holy forge of matrimony ſhe is linked to me. For thee, raſh ſtripling, in a deep dungeon ſhalt thou expiate thy audacity. Could thy preſumption prompt

prompt thee to imagine thy ſhallow brain could defeat the ſchemes of Donald? I knew thee from the firſt; thou canſt not but remember, when in the court-yard, ſurprize rivetted my ſight upon thee; but the wiſer dictates of cool policy recalled me to myſelf, and I reſolved to try what plans thy daring ſoul would form, contenting myſelf with keeping a guard upon thee, who watched thy every motion. The letter thou gaveſt unto the lady, ſhe dropped, 'twas found and delivered to me. Thy friend, the traitor Edric, was ſeized, and be aſſured ſhall receive the juſt reward of his treaſon. Another was placed at the draw-bridge in his ſtead, with orders to let thee paſs, while with my troops I did begird the caſtle. Some kindly angel led thee to

the ſpot where I myſelf tarried, and has given me the ſupreme delight of witneſſing thy miſery. Think not to eſcape, for by the bleſſed croſs of our Country's champion, thy puniſhment ſhall equal thy arrogance."

"And doſt thou make thy boaſt," exclaimed Eldred, "of this thy villainy? Cowardice, the conſtant attendant upon guilt, burns high within thee. Come, at one blow, diſpatch me, and glut thy ſavage nature!"

Donald perceived this ſpeech was uttered to excite his anger, that ſo he might be irritated, and deprive his rival of a hateful exiſtence. He

He replied, "Thy artifice is vain! Death were too gentle, too unſatisfactory for my revenge; in a loathſome priſon, where not a breath of air, but what is putrid, enters, ſhalt thou pine, till kneeling thou doſt intreat an end to thy exiſtence, and even that mercy is denied thee. Guards, bear him hence, and ſee that ye obey my orders."

Reſiſtance could avail him naught; as well might he have ſtopped the riſing tide upon the ſandy beach, as thus unarmed, attempt to oppoſe the will of Donald. The ſoldiers hood-winked his eyes, and placing him on horſeback, ſet forward. After a tedious journey, he found himſelf deſcending a long flight of ſteps; ſuddenly ſtop-

ping, the guards releaſed his ſight, and taking off his chains, left him in perfect darkneſs, while the harſh grating of the keys, convinced him he had reached his dungeon.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

The midnight clock has toll'd, and hark! the bell
Of death beats slow! heard ye the note profound?
It pauses now, and now, with rising knell,
Flings to the hollow gales it's sudden sound.

MASON.

DESPAIR now seized upon the soul of Eldred; deprived of liberty, robbed of the idol of his heart, whom, with it's utmost fervency he worshipped, what could he wish for, but death?

Irritated by reflection, and accusing fate, that instead of permitting him to end his life in battle, like his ancestors, had doomed him to perish in ignoble bondage, perhaps by the hand of an assassin, he traversed his dungeon,

till his foot ſtriking againſt a ſomething, threw him on the ground.

Curioſity prompted him to ſeek the cauſe of his diſaſter; after a tedious ſearch, he picked up a dagger, which, from the feel, he judged to be a ruſty one. While his thoughts were employed in vain conjectures, how, or for what purpoſe the inſtrument came there, the beams of the moon obſcurely glimmered through an aperture, in the roof of the cell, and preſented to his aſtoniſhed ſight a human ſkeleton, then diſappearing, he was again involved in chaos.

So momentary and ſo faint had been the light, he could not perſuade himſelf but the horror of his ſituation had conjured

conjured up this phœnomenon, and that 'twas but a phantom of his diſordered brain. Determined, however, to convince himſelf, he felt about the place, till his hand falling on the fleſhleſs bones, brought conviction. While in this dreadful ſituation, a low and diſmal groan from a far end of the dungeon vibrated in his ear. So many concurring horrors were ſure ſufficient to unnerve the fibres of the ſtrongeſt heart, and though unmoved, he would have encountered a hoſt of foes, yet did this awful ſcene ſo work upon his fancy, he could ſcarcely ſupport himſelf; a cold and chilly dew flowed down his limbs, his knees forgot their office, and ſhook under him, his nerves were all relaxed and ſinewleſs as the new-born infant's.

"What bloody act has this infernal den been made the scene of?" she involuntarily cried; "Unhappy wretch! I am doomed to mingle my dust with thine: Alas! thy miseries are ended, mine to come."

Harrassed with mental and corporal fatigue, he threw himself upon the bed, and strove to gain a temporary relief from his anxiety by sleep, but the care-suspending poppies fled his eye lids, and his groans of anguish echoed through the place: he rose, walked in a state of distraction, and his reflections served only to make his situation more deplorable. In vain did he endeavour to penetrate the mysterious gloom that surrounded his understanding; the more he tried to unravel

vel the knotted clue, the more was he entangled in the mazes of conjecture, without one leading thread to guide him to certainty; while the horrors of darkneſs, the whiſtling wind, and dreary ſounds of diſtant bells, increaſed the gloom.

During the whole night, he was diſturbed by a repetition of ſighs and melancholy noiſes, which iſſued from one particular direction, and kept him in a ſtate of racking uneaſineſs and anxiety.

At length the wiſhed for morn arrived, and by the aperture through which the chaſte Diana had the preceding evening caſt her pale influence, the gaudy ſun's illuſtrious rays now made

made their way, and diſcovered to Eldred the ſituation of his confinement.

'Twas a ſpacious, lofty vaulted cavern; on one ſide ſtood an oaken table, rotten and worn out with age; a ſtool that bore the ſame marks of antiquity, and a bed of ſtraw. Upon the table was placed a lamp and tinder-box, which, to the priſoner, was a cheering ſight, as it would prevent his paſſing another night in the darkneſs which he had ſpent the one preceding.

The only light was admitted through the opening afore-mentioned, and which had been occaſioned by an earthquake, or ſome other ſtrong convulſion of nature.

He

He was, in the courſe of the day ſerved with proviſions through a ſmall iron grate; and by the rattling of various keys, and the creeking jar of gates, he judged his priſon of too much ſtrength for him to entertain a hope of ever making his eſcape.

Faint with his wound, and lack of proper ſuſtenance, he made a ſlight repaſt on bread and water, (the only food allowed him) and ſunk under the friendly power of Morpheus; loſing for a time the remembrance of his cares.

While ſleeping, his dreams preſented the figure of an aged man, whoſe aſpect commanded veneration and reſpect. He was immured in a thick vaporous cloud,

cloud, from which his utmoſt efforts were vainly put in force to diſengage himſelf, till caſting an eye on Eldred, the miſt he was involved in vaniſhed, his ſilver beard and hair were converted into jetty locks, while the feeble limbs of age grew renovated, and formed an hero in the prime of mankood, caſed in ſteel: full he gazed on Eldred and uttering theſe words; "*Heaven guard you!*" diſappeared.

Surprize awakened Glencairn, who found the God of day had diſappeared, and that the miſt of darkneſs enveloped the earth. He aroſe, his mind wholly engroſſed in contemplating his dream, felt his way to the table, lighted his lamp, and removed the ſkeleton into a receſs at the far end of the cavern, and the

part

part whence the groans he had heard on the preceding night appeared to iſſue. Scarce had he laid it on the ground, ere the ſame diſmal ſounds harſhly ſtruck his ear, and determined him, if poſſible, to diſcover the cauſe. He ſearched in vain, he could find no clue to guide him, nor could he perſuade himſelf but the ſounds were ſupernatural. He tarried ſome time, till a deep ſigh made him ſuddenly ſtart from a fragment of the rock whereon he had ſeated himſelf, and in ſo doing he threw down the light and extinguiſhed it.

At the ſame time a ſomething fell on his head: he ſtood almoſt petrified with horror; another groan echoed through the cave; he ſought for his lamp, found

found it, and with trembling ſteps made for the table, rekindled the flame, and once more entered the receſs. All was quiet! On the ground he diſcovered a ſmall roll of paper, which he knew had fallen upon him while in the dark. He returned to the outer part of his priſon to examine it, but the damps, aided by time, had nearly obliterated the writing; nevertheleſs ſome parts were legible, and he peruſed the manuſcript.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

——How well in thee appears
The conſtant ſervice of the antique world!
When ſervice ſweet for duty, not for meed!
SHAKESPEARE.

'TIS now neceſſary to return to Donald, who having reſigned the captive Eldred to his followers, entered the Caſtle, and ſummoned Andrew to his preſence. Judging of others by himſelf, he imagined the Squire's fidelity might be ſhaken by the power of gold, and determined to make him aſſure the daughter of Wallace, that Eldred had entirely reſigned her to the Lord of the Iſles, on condition that he was reſtored to liberty. This he knew muſt

muſt give Jane a deſpicable opinion of her lover, and poſſibly might favor his own ſuit.

Donald took his ſeat in the hall, and the follower of the Lord Glencairn was ſoon uſhered in.

"Approach, and fear not," ſaid the Chief, "fain would I be thy friend. Convince the Lady Jane thy maſter has renounced her, and fortune is thy own: as an earneſt of my favor, I preſent you with this purſe."

"No, my Lord;" anſwered Andrew, "my affection for him I ſerve, was the gift of nature; I conſider it ſacred, and will preſerve it, as I would the laſt legacy of a departed friend.

Barter

Barter it for gold? No! keep it yourself, you have more need of it."

"I need of it?" replied Donald.

"Yes, you!" cried the Squire, "Go, purchase a fresh conscience, if you can. Exchange your robe, if possible, for an honest heart, and think yourself happy in your bargain."

"Wretch!" returned the Chief, "obey me, or dread my vengeance."

"My Lord," said Andrew, "rest assured my philosophy is equally proof against your menaces, as your gold."

"Fool!" exclaimed the enraged Donald, "Guards convey him back

to

to priſon, and double load him with chains!"

"I defy you," retorted the faithful fellow, "double that again, the thought of having acted rightly will make my irons light; while the weight that clogs your boſom will make your frame heavy, though in the ſtate of Adam."

"Away with him!" cried the Chief.

The ſoldiers obeyed, and having pinioned his arms, which gave him an appearance not unlike a truſſed capon, conveyed him to his cell, and left him with the alternative of chewing the cud of bitter reflection, or ſome mouldy bread,

bread, which was the only ſuſtenance they left him.

"Here is indeed," muttered the captive, "ſufficient room for meditation; here I can indulge my philoſophy, which bids fair to be put to the proof, and with as little fear of interruption, as the diſtreſſed cottager has to fear the relief of greatneſs. Should I ever be delivered from this Giant of the Caſtle, this Donald, never more will I enact a part ſo ill ſuited to my abilities, as that of a Squire. I am certain Mars did not preſide at my nativity. I am rather apt to think my parents were thinking of an olive branch at the time—No matter; I am afraid my death will be occaſioned by the branch of the neareſt oak. I ſhould not

not be ſurprized if this fiend was to hang me, and then my maſter's promiſes would be fulfilled, that by following his fortune, I ſhould get exalted. Sure enough, I ſet out with a promiſing proſpect; but it reminds me of the old proverb, *Praiſe a fair day at night.* I am afraid I ſhall be kept as a ſcare-crow, though forſooth there ſeems little occaſion for that, the birds appear to have as great an averſion as myſelf to this place. The only one I ſaw, during my ſtay at Edric's friend's, was an old owl, as melancholy as myſelf. Oh, that I was reading Plato in the buttery; there I had food for the body as well as the mind. Alas! I ſhall never ſee thoſe days again."

Thus

Thus did the unlucky Andrew lament his fate.

In the mean time, Donald fought the apartment of Jane, whoſe timid nature he diſturbed with his impetuous ſolicitations. Much were her hours embittered by his addreſſes; ſtill ſhe reſiſted his importunities, as firmly as the rock withſtands the laſhing waves beneath; and an unlooked for circumſtance called him, for a time, from the Caſtle, and relieved her from the reſtraint of his company.

Nor was his conduct to Jane the only injuſtice Donald was guilty of. Scotland, at that period, abounded with robbers; the whole kingdom was in a ſtate of civil war; the depredations of

banditti were not only tolerated, but encouraged by the Barons. Nay, they were employed by them to deſtroy the neighbouring nobility.

Donald, whoſe diſpoſition was ſuited to ſuch deeds, ſoon made himſelf conſpicuous. At the inſtigation of Earl Douglas, the moſt powerful of the Caledonian Chiefs, who had been defeated by the King's army, he ſummoned a numerous force to join him, under the command of Lauchlan Macleod, and Murdoch Gibſon, two noted robbers, with whom he invaded every place that was devoted to their ſovereign, ſparing neither age nor infancy, burning towns and villages, and enriching himſelf with the ſpoils thereof.

He

He attacked Argyle, and the Iſle of Arran, and having obtained poſſeſſion of the Caſtle of the latter by ſtratagem, he levelled it with the earth.

From thence he paſſed to Lochaber, and to Murray, where he exerciſed the ſame barbarities as at the preceding places.

He likewiſe deſtroyed the Caſtle of Inverneſs, after having taken it in a manner unworthy a warrior, and put the garriſon to the ſword.

Theſe things he did, not ſo much to gratify Lord Douglas, as to indulge his own ſanguinary, avaricious turn

of mind. Like the devouring locuſt, he carried with him deſtruction, and delighted in the miſeries of his fellow creatures.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Mourn, hapleſs Caledonia, mourn
Thy baniſh'd peace, thy laurels torn!
Thy ſons, for valour long renown'd,
Lie ſlaughter'd on their native ground.

SMOLLET.

WHILE the iron hand of civil war raged thus in Scotland, Henry of England perceiving an advantageous opportunity, as he and his predeceſſors were ever wont to do, commanded the inhabitants of Northumberland, and the other counties on the borders, to make incurſions; while the diſtracted ſtate of Caledonia prevented James, (the ſovereign of that nation) making any conſiderable attempt to repulſe the

foe; and a defeat of his army by Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, cauſed Donald to think this a favorable juncture to obtain a pardon for himſelf and his aſſociates.

He therefore ſent meſſengers to this purpoſe to his majeſty, who handled the matter very craftily, not openly and plainly forgiving the tyrant, nor yet making the ambaſſadors entirely deſpair of remiſſion for their Chief.

He anſwered them gently, that the Lord of the Iſles deſerved no mercy at his hands, that the ſanguinary acts of which he had been guilty called aloud for vengeance; nevertheleſs, that kings, who repreſent the divine majeſty of our Maker, ſhould, in holding

the

the balance of juſtice, ever lean towards the ſcale of mercy. That his pardon entirely depended on himſelf; that he ſhould do ſome praiſe-worthy action ere he was re-inſtated in his favor, and that he ſhould moreover repair every injury inflicted by him.

With this anſwer Donald was obliged to be content. At the ſame time ambaſſadors arrived from Richard, Duke of York, to claim the aſſiſtance of the Scottiſh monarch againſt Henry the Sixth, whom he purpoſed to depoſe, and to place himſelf upon the throne of England; in reward for which, he promiſed to reſtore the lands in Northumberland enjoyed by James's progenitors, with Berwick, and all the fields adjacent; and, to conclude, vowed

a perpetual peace and amity, to be maintained between the two realms.

When the ambaſſadors had concluded their harangue, they thus received their anſwer:

"It is not unknown the juſt title that Richard Plantagenet hath to the crown of England; but my aſſiſtance ſhould not be too precipitately granted, neither ſhould a prince, who has ſo long, and by conſent of his kingdom, been inveſted with the inſignia of royalty, be deſpoiled for a light cauſe, nor without mature deliberation; but that I refer to the wiſdom of the Engliſh nobility. I have juſt reaſon for complaint againſt my brother Henry. Firſt, that he did, without

without provocation, invade my dominions, at a time when they were internally rent by civil commotions; then alſo when I did ſeek redreſs, he delayed to give me an anſwer thereupon. If, therefore, the Duke of York, with the Lords of his faction, will keep promiſe, I here pledge myſelf, that my whole ſtrength ſhall be exerted to drive your preſent ſovereign from the throne, and place the crown upon his rival's head."

With this anſwer the ambaſſadors took their leave, and repeated the ſame to their maſter.

In the mean time James ſummoned his forces to be ready on a certain day, in order to invade their ancient ene-

mies. On his march, he was met and accoſted by an Engliſhman, a creature of King Henry's, and a perfect adept in the art of lying. He was accompanied by a monk, who feigned a marvellous gravity, and pretended he was entruſted with bills and commiſſions from the Pontiff of Rome.

He thus addreſſed the Caledonian Prince.

" It is the Pope's command, that neither the Sovereign of Scotland, nor any of his army, ſhall paſs farther into England, on pain of the curſes and cenſures of Holy Kirk. For through the frivolous diſſenſions of Chriſtian kings, have the Turks, (thoſe cruel enemies to our religion) crept daily more

more and more into Europe. Therefore, be all debates, battles and ſtrife ſet aſide between the diſciples of our Saviour, and their utmoſt endeavours uſed to expel the infidels, who would not only ſpoil them of their worldly liberty, but alſo of the word of God: on which account, I am now authorized by the Pope, to promiſe, that all ravages committed by King Henry ſhall be repaired, and that ye be from this time on terms of amity."

James, believing nothing of deceit in theſe fraudulent hypocrites, obeyed the mandate, and diſbanded his troops, but was not long returned, before he diſcovered the craft and ſubtilty of his foes; equally enraged at his own cre-

dulity, he collected a freſh body of men, and entered the Engliſh borders.

While theſe tranſactions paſſed, the Duke of York led his forces againſt Henry, whom he attacked, routed his army, ſlew many of his leaders, and made the king himſelf priſoner, whom he conducted to London, where the Parliament pronounced him incapable of ruling, though they permitted him to continue the regal title, conſtituting Richard governor of the realm.

Thus was Henry, who at the early age of nine months, was acknowledged monarch of England and France, in the prime of manhood deprived of both, and the prophecy made good,

" *That*

"That Henry of Monmouth ſhould win, what Henry of Windſor ſhould loſe."

In the mean time James invaded the Engliſh ſovereign's favourers in the north, and when he had won the town of Roxburgh, and laid ſiege to the Caſtle thereof, ambaſſadors arrived from his ally the Duke of York, requeſting him to raiſe the ſiege, as he had entirely carried his point.

James claimed the lands promiſed, to which the ambaſſadors replied they could not give an anſwer.

Irritated at finding himſelf the dupe of both parties, he vowed revenge, and ſwore he would dye the white roſe of a deeper hue than its rival. Moreover, that

that he would not depart till the caſtle was his own, ſo diſmiſſed the commiſſioners.

Soon after he was joined by Donald, and a powerful reinforcement, who offered to penetrate farther into England, and by ſeveral deeds of valour, he recommended himſelf particularly to the notice of his monarch; his tent was pitched neareſt him, and nought was done without his concurrence.

During the ſiege, the King was unfortunately ſlain by the burſting of a cannon, near which he ſtood. His death was regretted by every one; but in a ſhort time his place was ſupplied by his queen, who arrived with her ſon, and reſtrained their grief.

"Here,"

"Here," ſhe cried, "is the offſpring of him you lament; ſhew your regard to your deceaſed Prince, by attacking the enemies of his ſucceſſor, nor vainly yield to an unmanly ſorrow."

Theſe words inſpired the ſoldiers; they ſtormed the place, headed by Donald, and after a ſtout reſiſtance, captured it. There we ſhall leave the Lord of the Iſles to reap the reward of his victory.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Blood hath been ſhed ere now, 'i th' olden time,
Ere human ſtatute purg'd the general weal;
Aye, and ſince too, murders have been perform'd,
Too terrible for th' ear: the times have been,
That when the brains were out, the man would die,
And there an end; but now they riſe again,
With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,
And puſh us from our ſtools; this is more ſtrange
Than ſuch a murder is.

SHAKESPEARE.

'TIS now proper to return to the unhappy Eldred, who was left buſily employed in peruſing the manuſcript, ſome parts of which were effaced, the reſt was legible, and he read it.

MS.

"Into whoſe hands ſoever theſe lines may fall, if the current of com-

paſſion

paſſion flows from their eyes, ſurely they will not refuſe to bedew the following ſheets with the melting drop of pity. Pity for an innocent mortal deprived of liberty, cut off from ſociety in the flower of manhood, and torn from an only infant, too young to regret the myſterious fate of a miſerable parent; to regret the fate of

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"The ſhafts of adverſity fall on me, even as the waters of heaven do beat the earth.—Juſt God! for what deadly ſin am I thus tortured? For what reſerved?—Wretch that I am, why do I queſtion the decrees of heaven? It's will be done! To ſuffer is the lot of mortals, and why ſhould I ſuppoſe myſelf exempt?

Oh,

"Oh gentle reader! let the recital of my ſufferings, while it touches thy heart, animate thee with revenge. The paper is wet with my tears! Scarce will my hand guide my pencil! I can no more at preſent!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

"I left my caſtle, and without any retinue, ſave my Squire, took my courſe northward. Dark was the night, and loud the whiſtling wind, fiercely it bluſtered through the thick foliage of the mountain pine; in roaring torrents ruſhed the angry river o'er it's oozy bed; all nature was convulſed, even things inanimate ſeemed moved, and warned me of my danger!

"Alas!

"Alas! little did I think what my ſad deſtiny had reſerved me for!

"Paſſing the out-ſkirts of a grove, while yet the warring of the elements continued, methought I heard the cry of deep diſtreſs. I liſtened with attention, but in vain; the increaſed clamour of the ſtorm baffled every endeavour, and I was on the point of continuing my journey, when a piercing ſhriek aſſailed my ear, on which I ſpurred my ſteed through the thick growing trees, reſolved to give aſſiſtance: hard, that while I hoped I was about to aid the miſerable, I ruſhed to meet my own doom.

Having advanced ſome way into the foreſt, how was my aſtoniſhment excited,

cited, on being attacked by a party of armed men? Their company was numerous; however, I determined to ſell my life dearly, and unſheathing my ſword, in which I was followed by my truſty lacquey, made a ſtout reſiſtance; but my ſervant ſlain, and myſelf ſurrounded, I was diſarmed, faſt bound, and conducted to this inhoſpitable den.

"Uſeleſs were my conjectures, and vain my enquiries, as to where I was, or for what detained. The following morning, I heard the ponderous portal of my priſon ſwing on its ruſty hinges, and turning towards the door, the faint light diſcovered to me the features of a brother!

"Inhuman

"Inhuman Wallace! at this moment my heart aches at the remembrance—My poor neglected infant! my dear, my beloved Eldred! never ſhall the diſtreſſes of an injured parent reach thine ear!"

The manuſcript dropped from the hand of Glencairn at theſe lines, by which he learned the ſkeleton was that of his long loſt father. He preſſed the tablets to his lips with devotion, then ſtarting from his ſeat, he flew to the receſs where he had depoſited the remains, threw himſelf upon the ground, and claſped the fleſhleſs bones within his arms. At length he reſolved to dig a grave, and commit them to the earth.

This

This he accomplished by means of the rusty dagger he had found: then wrapping his robe, of which he divested himself, around the corse, he returned it to that from whence it sprung.

At that moment the nightly screech-owl uttered a lamentable cry, which was answered by a deep groan that issued from the corner whence he had heard the preceding ones. His blood grew clotted in his veins, he fancied the spirit of his departed sire had taken that method to spur him to revenge.

"Shade of my ill-fated, my lamented father!" exclaimed Eldred, "rest in peace! Fear not, but thy murder shall be expiated. Blood calls for blood,

blood, nor ſhall it call in vain; for ſure that power who has brought me hither to diſcover the author of thy dreadful end, will, by ſome miracle, effect my deliverance, and make me the inſtrument of vengeance on his head!"

Having prayed awhile, he covered the bones with earth, and paſſed the remainder of the night in heavy rumination.

The agitation he had laboured under, his bodily as well as mental agony had exhauſted him, and tired nature craved repoſe. He enjoyed ſome hours of broken ſlumber, nor did he awake till night; he then trimmed his lamp, and returned to the manuſcript.

"In

"In vain are my complaints; my ſighs are only mimicked by the roaring wind, and my tears mocked by the chilling rain!

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"My days paſs unnumbered. Long, very long, have I now been an inmate of this ſavage dwelling: Never, oh never more ſhall I breathe the freſh invigorating air; no more wander in the ſcenes of youthful pleaſures. My only proſpect is the rocky walls of this priſon, my only refuge is my grave!

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* * * * * * * * * *

"My ſufferings are too great to bear. Surely, if my ſad heart is made of penetrable

netrable ſtuff, the chords muſt ſhortly crack, and end me!

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* * * * * * * *

"I riſe from a long night of ſorrow; my health is much impaired; my ſtrength enfeebled. A few more tedious days of bondage, and ſure this hapleſs frame will ſhatter. Thou, heaven, who knoweſt my inmoſt thoughts, can teſtify my only care is for the welfare of my darling ſon: on his young heart be virtue and humanity imprinted; may he be ever ready to aſſiſt the unfortunate, and may the corroding hand of ſorrow ne'er aſſail him; let his life be paſſed in hap-

pineſs, and when his Maker thinks fit to call him from this tranſitory life, be poor men's prayers his epitaph !"

* * * * * * *

Here the Manuſcript ended.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Come, melancholy! ſilent power,
Companion of my lonely hour,
To ſober thought confin'd!
Thou ſweetly ſad, ideal gueſt,
In all thy ſoothing charms confeſs'd,
Indulge my penſive mind.

CARTER.

ELDRED bedewed the ſheets with his tears, placed them in his boſom, and repaired to the grave of his parent. While every faculty was abſorbed in contemplation, a loud ſhriek made the vital blood grow chilly at his heart; at the ſame time a noiſe at the gate of the cavern cauſed him to ſeek the reaſon. He expected to ſee his executioner, but his horror was converted into ſurpriſe, when he beheld a man

unarmed, and advancing towards him; he deſcried the features of Duncan, ſon of Carrol, who was Sir James's agent in his villainies, and an inhabitant of the caſtle.

"Good heaven!" cried Eldred, "by what ſtrange chance do I find thee here? tell me."—

"Suſpend your enquiries," returned the youth, "and conſider only your ſafety. Your priſon doors are open to you, fly."

The ſilver tongues of angels could not have been more welcome to the ears of Glencairn than theſe words, ſtill his admiration increaſed.

"I conjure

"I conjure you," ſaid he, "inform me by what ſtrange means your kindneſs is enabled to befriend me."

"Briefly thus: laſt night, in paſſing through the gallery of the caſtle, the buz of people in converſation attracted my notice. I liſtened, and heard Sir James and my father in earneſt diſcourſe; you, they often mentioned, and from what they ſaid, I learned you were here in confinement, and under the latter's cuſtody.

"He had for ſome time a large bunch of keys, of which he is ſo extremely careful, that in the day he kept them under lock, and at night depoſited them beneath his pillow. I queſtioned him concerning what place they

were the ſafeguard of, but was ſilenced with a frown."

"Suſpend your idle curioſity, nor for your life attempt to develope the ſecrets of my heart."

"This was his anſwer. What I heard in the gallery convinced me thoſe were the keys of your priſon, and I have ſpent the whole day in deviſing means for your emancipation. To night my father was unexpectedly ſummoned by Sir James, and being at the time employed in the locker, where he kept his charge, in his haſte, left the door open, and gave me the wiſhed-for opportunity of reſtoring you to that liberty, which, but for this lucky chance, you never would have

regained.

regained. Surely I am not culpable in thwarting the ſchemes of a parent, when they are unworthy of him; and that Being, whoſe ſcrutinizing eye can look into my very ſoul, knows that I act but from his juſt impulſe."

"What ſavage place is this!" ſaid Eldred. "*The Haunted Cavern!*" replied Duncan. "*The Haunted Cavern*, indeed!" exclaimed our hero, "Little did I think, at the time I treated the report but as the idle chimera of the peaſants, that 'twas the haunt of a beloved ——."

He recollected himſelf in time, to prevent the ſecret of the murder eſcaping his lip. He quitted the cell, after damping the earthy pillow of his fa-

ther, and vowing to dedicate his life unto revenge.

At the door of his dungeon, he returned his deliverer every acknowledgement that a heart ſtored with gratitude could inſpire; then left him, and went to the humble dwelling of old Maud, where he begged ſhe would permit him to remain for a ſhort time, telling her, as ſhe valued his life, not to divulge his being there.

Eldred determined here to make his abode, till the ſearch, which would of courſe be made, ſhould ceaſe; then to viſit the manſion of his anceſtors, relate the unnatural end of his father, and invoke the tenants to arm them for revenge on his aſſaſſin.

He

He paſſed the night in a ſtate of anxiety. In the morning, the ſame lady whom he had ſeen at the cottage on the day of his elopement with Jane, again made her appearance; ſtill ſhe was veiled; with impatience ſhe queſtioned him concerning his fair couſin, in which he ſatisfied her as much as in him lay.

In the evening Maud, by the deſire of Glencairn, repaired to the caſtle, and on her return gave him the following account.

"I hobbled at your requeſt to the Baron's. I am ſure my old feet ach for it, and well they may; for croſſing the rocks that lie 'twixt here and there would bruiſe the hoof of a camel."

"Spare your obſervations," interrupted Eldred, "and tell me what tidings you have brought."

"Spare my obſervations!" returned ſhe, "I have made none, except on my fatigue, and the badneſs of the road. Well, at laſt I arrived at Sir James's, and the firſt perſon that I ſaw was Duncan; knowing from the ſervice he had done you, and a ſignal ſervice too, let me tell you. Sure his goodneſs will make ſome recompenſe for the life of his father; never were two ſo unlike. There is as much difference between them as there is 'twixt a chappin of whiſkey and a pail of ditch water. Ah, my Lord, your gratitude to him cannot be too great."

"I am

"I am not," ſaid Eldred, "to learn what I owe him, nor will my heart, I hope, ever forget the favours I have received from any. Reſt aſſured, my good mother, you ſhall not go unrewarded."

"Reward!" ſaid the old woman, "I ſcorn it! 'tis my heart that prompts me to lend you what little aid I can, and that looks for no other reward than the ſatisfaction it feels in doing good. Well, I imparted to Duncan your being here."

"Strange things," replied he, "have happened at the caſtle: laſt night, during my abſence at the *Haunted Cavern*, a pilgrim arrived at the gate; the laws of hoſpitality for-

bad Sir James to refuſe the lodging he demanded, or reſt aſſured he would have done it."

"This Duncan need not have told me, for I know the Baron's diſpoſition; he conſiders not the proper uſe of riches, which heaven by granting in profuſion to one, enables him to aſſiſt thoſe to whom fortune has been leſs bountiful. Theſe are my ideas of wealth, and I am ſure——"

"For heaven's ſake!" cried the anxious Eldred, "ſuſpend your comments, and eaſe my impatience!"

"Well, well!" ſaid Maud, "you are impetuous, but when your youthful

ful blood is lowered by age, you will know better."

"This pilgrim," continued Duncan, "has won the hearts of the whole family; they idolize him. Now mark me; at the dead of night, the inhabitants were alarmed by the cries of Sir James; they flew to his chamber, and found him in a ſtate impoſſible to picture: His eyes were glaring, the perſpiration dropped from off him, and his features were convulſed with horror. In the firſt ſally of his panic, he unwarily diſcovered the cauſe; he proteſted the apparition of the late Lord Glencairn had appeared to him, had opened the curtains at the bottom of his couch, preſented himſelf in armour, and that having ſtood there a few moments,

ments, ſuddenly vaniſhed." "My father," continued Duncan, "now entered the apartment, and ordered the domeſticks to retire. In the morning, he informed them 'twas nothing more than a dream with which their Lord had been troubled, and which had left ſo ſtrong an impreſſion on him. This, though they mentioned not their miſtruſt, I could obſerve they were far from crediting. Sir James is confined by illneſs to his bed, and much I fear a guilty conſcience is his complaint. Recal to mind the myſterious manner in which the late Lord of Glencairn diſappeared: I dare ſay no more, but I would not have his heart in my breaſt for a kingdom. Trembling, I ſaw Carrol take the keys and quit the caſtle: in a little time he returned, and demanded

demanded of me whether I had not, on the preceding evening, touched them; I denied having ſeen them. He ſat for ſome time muſing, then ſtarting from his chair, left me; but I am certain he has concealed his priſoner's eſcape from Sir James."

"This was Duncan's account, and you have it in his own words."

Here Maud ceaſed to ſpeak, and Eldred gave her the thanks which were her due.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

Bring me unto my trial when you will.
Dy'd he not in his bed? Where ſhould he die?
Can I make men live whether they will or no?
Oh! torture me no more, I will confeſs.

SHAKESPEARE.

WHEN the reſidents of the cottage were retired to reſt, Eldred wandered from thence to get a little air, of which he ſtood in great need. Unknowingly he took his way towards the Cavern, and ſeating himſelf upon a fragment of ſtone, contemplated the beauties of nature: the moon ſhone bright, but was now and then obſcured by darkſome clouds which ſwiftly flew acroſs the luminary, and ſeemed to foretel the approaching ſtorm. Here he

he was ſoon diſturbed by the ſame noiſe he had been accuſtomed to hear while in confinement, and which now appeared to iſſue from the cave. He ſtarted, and perceived a figure gliding along at no great diſtance. Reſolved, if poſſible, to know what it was, he followed it, but in vain; the various turnings of the rocks favoured the object of his purſuit, who ſoon diſappeared, and left him wrapped in wonder. He recollected a ſimilar circumſtance befalling Jane, and conſidered this as a ſtimulative to him to avenge his father's death.

The caſtle clock now chimed the hour of twelve, and the faſt falling rain warned him to retire. He meaſured his ſteps towards the manſion of

Wallace,

Wallace, determined no longer to delay his vengeance, and by a ſecret paſſage entered the building. The time conſpired with his purpoſe; the croaking raven from the mouldering turrets welcomed his approach; he haſtened to the apartment of his uncle, and entered it; around the couch the curtains were cloſed; he undrew them, and beheld his victim buried in ſleep, while conſcience, that bane to reſt, diſturbed even his ſlumbers.

"Behold!" he cried, "the ghaſtly ſpectre! See how his eye-balls glare! Alas! poor injured ſhade, can nought make thee atonement? Oh, murdered brother!"

The

The inflamed temper of Eldred could brook no more, in rage he exclaimed:

"Villain! awake and meet thy doom!" Wallace opened his eyes, and ſeeing Glencairn, the blood forſook his cheek: fixed as though influenced by the baſiliſk, he gazed upon the youth; when the power of utterance returning: "Gracious powers!" he cried, "who is it I ſee?"

"Thou ſeeſt," ſaid Eldred, "the offspring of the murdered Archibald. Long haſt thou triumphed, and with impunity enjoyed the produce of thy crimes; vengeance is now at hand; from me thou art deſtined to receive it."

"I ſubmit,"

"I ſubmit," quoth Wallace, "to the will of fate, my puniſhment is juſt; but, Oh! I charge thee give me a little time for penitence, if heaven grants it, do not thou refuſe it!"

"Impoſtor!" returned Glencairn, "too well I conceive the ſhallow artifice: thou wouldeſt gain time, in the vain hope that ſome of thy infernal pack will reſcue thee, their leading blood-hound: but prepare—as well might the taken deer uſe perſuaſion with the cur who holds him, as thou hope to eſcape my juſt revenge; revenge for a murdered parent, whoſe death is now avenged in this."

He raiſed his dagger, and was about to plunge it in the breaſt of his proſtrate

ſtrate victim, when an oppoſite door ſuddenly opened, and a pilgrim entered, crying; "Hold! hold thy hand!"

Surpriſe called Eldred from his purpoſe; he caſt his looks upon the ſtranger, who tearing from his face an artificial beard, and diveſting himſelf of his weeds, diſplayed the figure of a warrior, (like to that he had ſeen in his dream) who flew into his arms, exclaiming; "My ſon, my ſon!"

So momentary had been this ſcene, that the faculties of Eldred were totolly ſuſpended, and the unhappy Wallace, on ſeeing the Palmer throw off his diſguiſe, had fallen into a ſwoon.

"Merciful

"Merciful powers!" cried the aſtoniſhed youth, "is it poſſible I ſee my father?"

"Thou doſt," replied his ſire, for it was him: "in me thou ſeeſt him, while I behold in thee a ſon, to reward my paſt misfortunes, and ſoothe my latter hours."

Joy, the natural conſequence of ſuch unexpected happineſs, having ſomewhat ſubſided, their thoughts were turned to the wretched criminal, who ſtill remained inſenſate. At length, with much care, they brought him to himſelf, but no ſooner did he deſcry the features of his injured brother, than he relapſed into his former ſtate; nor was it but with much difficulty they

they could convince him 'twas not the ſpirit, but the living Archibald, who ſtood before him, and ſtrove by every ſoothing method to reconcile the culprit to himſelf—but ineffectual were his endeavours, repentance had touched his heart, and the barbed dart of conſcience forbade him eaſe.

"In vain," ſaid he, "you kindly try to comfort me; reaſon pictures me a ſavage unnatural wretch: for not to me you owe your life—alas! long ſince I thought you dead! Bleſſed be Providence that has preſerved you! Avarice, that curſed paſſion, was the ſource of all, and at his altar would I have ſacrificed the world! Your ſon I could not bear to look upon, and though a ſomething, I will not ſay humanity,

humanity, reſtrained me from deſtroying him; yet when I found my ſchemes thwarted, when I had formed an alliance for my daughter, which but for him would have taken place, I doomed him to the ſame wretched cavern, where I imagined you had breathed your laſt. Seek not to make me wiſh for life even now I feel the biting agonies of death: ſummon my ſervants, and let me by reparation make ſome atonement." The domeſticks appeared.

"Remember," quoth Wallace, "my nephew Eldred, is the heir of all that I poſſeſs; thou, much wronged brother, curſe not my memory; your ſiſter, my injured wife, was at the inſtigation of Duncan, by my orders, ſent to —"

Here

Here his ſpeech failed him; death ſtamped his ſeal upon his eye-lids, and had he lived but as he died, ſighs and tears would have honored his memory, which was reviled with ſcoffings and upbraidings.

Eldred was acknowledged Lord of the Caſtle and its vaſt appurtenances: the ruſtic tenants hailed their new maſter with ſhouts of joy; the gates of this hitherto inhoſpitable manſion were now thrown open, and welcome given to every one; the ponderous ox ſmoked before the fire, and the ſpacious hall reſounded with the ſounds of mirth and minſtrilſy.

CHAP. XVII.

——What are fifty, what a thouſand ſlaves,
Match'd to the ſinew of a ſingle arm
That ſtrikes for Liberty?

BROOKE.

ELDRED, by the deſire of his father, whom we ſhall henceforth call the Lord Glencairn, recited his adventures. On coming to the part which related to the hermit, he ſhewed the ring, and queſtioned his ſire concerning it.

"That ring," returned his parent, "I preſented to the Lord John Talbot ere thou wert born. He was in Scotland on ſome buſineſs of ſtate, and we

we formed, during his ſtay, a ſolemn friendſhip; he fell in the French wars, and I am now convinced by the arm of your anchorite."

Eldred then requeſted an account of his own fortunes.

"Alas! my ſon," he replied, "I cannot ſatisfy you without entering into a detail of my ſufferings, misfortunes I will no more entitle them, ſince I have at laſt the happineſs of ſeeing you again. When laſt theſe eyes beheld you, you were an infant; your mother dying in giving you birth, my whole affection centered in the dear pledge ſhe left behind her, and I thought ſhe lived again in you, on whom my heart reclined as its laſt

prop. On that fatal night that I departed from my Caſtle, before I mounted, I preſſed you to my heart, and invoked a bleſſing on you; then journeyed towards the dwelling of Wallace, who having intimation of my deſign to viſit him, planted the ruffians who took me in the grove. This I learned from himſelf on his viſiting me in the cavern. It would be ſuperfluous to mention circumſtances of which the manuſcript has informed you: four tedious years did I paſs in that dreary place, during which time my reſt was often diſturbed by the melancholy noiſes you have mentioned. In vain were my endeavours put in force to diſcover the cauſe; in vain I racked my brain, and at length concluded the Cavern was haunted by ſome reſtleſs

ſpirit:

ſpirit: full of theſe thoughts, my time grew doubly irkſome.

"One ſtormy night, the rain beat hard againſt my priſon roof; the peals of thunder rattled o'er my head, and vivid flames of ſulphurous lightning flaſhed through the opening of the rock. Suddenly methought, from the tremendous craſh, the cave was rent in pieces: I flew to the receſs where the ſhock ſeemed above the reſt; but what was my ſurpriſe, when I found a part of it neareſt the ground torn by the fury of the elements, was broken away? nor can I picture the agitation of my mind, when I diſcovered it opened into a long narrow paſſage. I conſidered this as the kind work of Providence, and falling on my knees, re-

turned thanks to the Almighty, who thus ſeemed to promiſe me my liberty.

"I extinguiſhed my lamp, not knowing where the path might lead me to. I felt my way for ſome time, and at length deſcried a glimmering light, which made me more cautious how I proceeded. On my nearer approach, I found it was diffuſed by a lamp, ſuſpended by a long iron chain from the roof of a cave, round which were ſcattered breaſt-plates, cuiraſſes, helmets, in ſhort, every implement of war. At afar end ſat the figure of a man caſed in ſteel, and his bever being up gave me an opportunity of ſeeing his face, which was as pale as death. I was much aſtoniſhed, nay, ſuch was the effect

effect of my ſurpriſe, that I conſidered him as ſomething ſupernatural.

"On recollection, I thought my beſt way would be to return to my dungeon, and tarry a fitter opportunity. I did ſo, and waited with impatience the return of the following evening. As ſoon as it arrived I ſought the paſſage again, and in the cave beheld the ſame figure as before. I ſtood for ſome time gazing on him, my ſituation being ſuch as gave me a full view of him without fear of diſcovery. Suddenly he ſtarted from his ſeat, and vaniſhed through an outlet that was near him. After a time, finding all quiet, I ventured out, but at that inſtant he returned, and ſeeing me, unſheathed his ſword and made towards

me. Fortunately the place was ſo well ſtored with weapons, that I ſoon armed myſelf, and after an obſtinate combat, ſtretched him drowned in blood upon the earth.

"Compaſſion prompted me to give him every aſſiſtance in my power. I unbuckled his breaſt-plate, and endeavoured to ſtaunch his wound, but he puſhed me from him."

"Your care" he ſaid, "is vain: even now the angel of death hovers around me, and will ſhortly cloſe my eyes for ever! Misfortunes, biting want have driven me here, have leagued me with a band of robbers; liſten to my ſufferings and pity me!

"I am

"I am ſon to the late Sir William Lovel, England claims my birth; in the fruitful county of Norfolk I drew my firſt breath, and received the foſtering care of a fond father; the tender ſolicitude with which he watched my juvenile years, can never be obliterated from the tablets of my memory, ſo long as I poſſeſs the power of reflection.

"The firſt ſeventeen years of my life paſſed without any incident worthy relating, when one of our tenants, named Brackenbury, was left guardian to the daughter of a deceaſed friend, who had reſided in a diſtant part of the kingdom. On her arrival, her beauty entirely engroſſed the converſation of the place, and the continual commen-

dations I heard of the perfections of this young damſel, made me reſolve to ſee her. I therefore one day, on my return from riding, called at Brackenbury's to requeſt a draught of water, but in hopes of beholding his charge.

"I alighted by his deſire, and was conducted into the cottage, where the firſt object that attracted my notice was his lovely ward, Lauretta. Never did I behold ſo charming a creature: but if I was captivated by her beauty, I was much more ſo by her engaging modeſt mien, which had ſuch an effect upon me, I from that moment became enſlaved.

"I viſited my adored Lauretta every day: I diſcloſed my paſſion, and had the

the ſatisfaction to find ſhe returned my love; but Brackenbury, who was a man of penetration, ſoon diſcovered the cauſe of my viſits, and threatened, if I did not diſcontinue them, to inform Sir William.

"I left the cottage in a ſtate little ſhort of phrenzy, from which I became gloomy and reſerved; not only my mind, but my body was infected; I could take no nouriſhment, ſleep forſook my pillow, and my days were miſerable. My father perceived the alteration, and importuned me to divulge the reaſon; I could not reſiſt his entreaties, and confeſſed my affection for Lauretta.

"The good man heard me without a ſingle interruption, then replied; "my deareſt William, I do not blame you; you are young, and I muſt own the perſon on whom you have beſtowed your love, though neither rich or nobly born, is worthy of your tenderneſs; I entertained indeed better hopes, but rather than ſee you thus, you have my leave to eſpouſe Lauretta."

"Words would be inadequate to the tranſports I felt on hearing him ſanction my love; I flew to the abode of my miſtreſs, and informed her of the converſation that had paſſed; her joy was equal to my own."

"I now fancied nothing wanting to perfect my felicity; but Oh! how tranſient

tranſient is the bliſs of mortals! Three days previous to that which was to have put my deſtined bride into my poſſeſſion, my dear, my beloved parent was thrown from his horſe, and ſo violently bruiſed as to cauſe his death. I was with him at the time this fatal accident happened, and with the aſſiſtance of a peaſant removed him to the caſtle.

"A ſurgeon was immediately ſent for, who pronounced his wounds mortal. Finding he had but a ſhort time to live, he ordered every one but myſelf to quit the room; then deſired me to ſit down beſide him.

"My dear boy!" ſaid he, "you are going to loſe a tender father, and a ſincere friend; your happineſs has conſtituted

ſtituted the chief ſtudy of my life, your company has been the only ſolace of my latter years. I have, William, time only to ſay a few words relative to your future conduct. Never cringe to your ſuperiors, nor commit a diſhonorable action for the ſake of any temptation that may be held out to you: reſt aſſured, the greateſt happineſs man can taſte is to retroſpect his paſt conduct, without feeling the goading ſtings of a reproachful conſcience. To your dependants be ever affable, and let it be your conſtant care to reward the deſerving. Farewel, my ſon, may heaven bleſs you!"

"Here, with a ſigh, he reſigned his breath to the ſupreme Being, and ſlept in peace!"

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

If misfortune comes, ſhe brings along
The braveſt virtues. And ſo many great
Illuſtrious ſpirits have convers'd with woe,
Have in her ſchool been taught, as are enough
To conſecrate diſtreſs, and make ambition
E'en wiſh the frown, beyond the ſmile of fortune.

THOMSON.

"THE violence of my grief," continued the robber, "threw me into a fever, during which time Sir William was interred. On the following day, I received a viſit from my couſin, the Lord Lovel. Having always lived on amicable terms with him, I imagined his coming the reſult of friendſhip, but I was ſoon undeceived.

"On

"On entering the hall, after conſoling me for my irreparable loſs with a profuſion of apparent kindneſs, he enquired whether my father had left a will? I anſwered in the negative, on which he altered his tone, ſaying;" "I thought as much; 'tis therefore neceſſary I ſhould let you know the cauſe of my being here is to take poſſeſſion of theſe domains, which now devolve on me as neareſt heir. I am moreover to inform you, your birth is illegitimate, and that you quit this place to-morrow. You acknowledge Sir William left no teſtament, you cannot therefore lay claim to any thing."

"I was petrified at theſe words, but the flinty hearted wretch, far from feeling compaſſion for my ſituation,

repeated

repeated his order that I ſhould leave the caſtle the next day.

"Having diſengaged myſelf from the ſtupor wherein ſurpriſe had caſt me, rage ſucceeded, and I laid my hand upon my ſword, with an intention to offer him a ſacrifice to filial duty and affection; for the memory of my mother, although ſhe died ere I was old enough to feel her loſs, was highly revered by me. He perceiving my deſign, called his attendants, who immediately entered and diſarmed me.

"Turn" cried he, "yon baſtard forth, and if he ever preſumes to come within theſe walls again, death ſhall be his puniſhment!"

"It

"It was in vain to make reſiſtance; as his followers were much too numerous for my domeſticks to cope with; I therefore ſubmitted to my deſtiny, and left him maſter of what indeed was mine. Thus was I ſtripped of every thing, and ſhut out from the very manſion, which but a ſhort hour before owned me for it's Lord!

"At firſt I thought of making an appeal to the law; but too true I was the fruit of an alliance, which, though rendered firm by mutual affection, never was ſanctioned by the matrimonial rites. I alſo thought of viſiting my beloved Lauretta, but honour forbad me: to preſent a beggar to her arms would, I imagined, be an ill return for her unfeigned affection.

"I ſet

"I ſet forward, determined to turn my back on Norfolk for ever. I travelled the whole night and the following day, ſcarce taking any refreſhment. I entered Scotland, and was paſſing near this ſpot, when my way was interrupted by a man, who brandiſhing his ſword, bade me deliver my money. Unuſed to be commanded, I refuſed, on which he furiouſly attacked me; but I, aware of him, unſheathed my weapon and eſcaped the blow. Long we fought, without the leaſt advantage on either ſide, till a deep wound which he received in the ſword arm, cauſed him to drop his falchion.

"My life is yours," he exclaimed, "take it!"

"I replied

"I replied, no! although the unprovoked manner in which you attacked me would authorise such a deed, yet religion, which teaches us to forgive our enemies, forbids me! Therefore live."

"He was about to return his thanks, when I observed a body of men issue from a grove at no great distance, and hasten towards us. On drawing nearer, and perceiving their associate wounded, they were about to sacrifice me to their rage; when he generously cried, "Hold! and learn, though your profession compels you to divest the benighted traveller, to respect valour! Henceforth consider this young man as my friend."

"I found

"I found by the deference paid him, he was their captain. His hurt required assistance; and seeing I was fatigued, he begged I would accompany him to his cave, where I should be welcome to pass the night. Unable to suspect a person who had behaved so nobly, I accepted his invitation.

"We walked till we came to a group of lofty rocks, and having wandered about half a mile in the midst of them, entered this place. The Chief having had his wound dressed, ordered some refreshment. In a minute the table was covered with all sorts of delicate viands and rich wines, which, notwithstanding so much in want of, I hardly tasted.

"Having

"Having finiſhed our repaſt we retired. I aroſe early in the morning, but found the captain up before me; he informed me he had, ſpite of the anguiſh of his wound, left his bed in compliment to me. Our breakfaſt ended, he deſired all, ſave myſelf, to retire. As ſoon as they were gone, he thus addreſſed me:

"Stranger, you will doubtleſs wonder, in a place like this, to find a being poſſeſſed of feeling; but let this teach you never to judge of the heart by the outward appearance, and learn, that a mortal compelled by poverty to embrace the rude life of a robber, may have virtues to which a prince, with all his greatneſs, may be a ſtranger. You have ſpared my life in a ſituation

where

where few would have acted like you; 'tis a vaſt debt and never can be cancelled. You appear unhappy; can I in any way contribute to your ſatisfaction? If I can, let not an ill-timed diffidence prevent your putting my profeſſions to the teſt."

"I thanked him for his kindneſs, but aſſured him my griefs were not within his power to cure. He anſwered, his only inducement for noticing my melancholy was the hope of being able to diſpel it. Convinced by his manner he meant me well, I reſolved to truſt him with my hiſtory, which I had no ſooner finiſhed, than in a fit of paſſion he cried, "Juſt heaven! are ſuch villains, the worſt of robbers, permitted to eſcape the laſh

of

of cenſure and rigour of the law, while miſerable wretches like myſelf, who only take from their fellow creatures to ſatisfy the wants of nature, are branded with the moſt opprobrious epithets! Young man, enliſt yourſelf with me, and it ſhall be my ſtudy to make reſtitution for the wrongs you have received from fortune."

"I conſented, and became a comrade in their depredations. Long I had not followed this deteſted calling, when our captain died, and by the general aſſent of the band, I was elected commander, which poſt I have ſince filled; but gracious heaven has by your hand ſhortened a life, the latter part of which has been marked by crimes: yet has not my ſoul been tainted with inhumanity,

inhumanity, and dearly would I make atonement; while yet life laſts let me then attempt it. In the ſeveral cells this place contains are numberleſs victims, who have long ——"

"The unerring dart of death entered his heart at theſe words, and forbad his tongue its repentant office. I ſearched the cave, but to no purpoſe; ſo artfully were theſe dens concealed, that the piercing eye of the lynx in vain might have ſought them.

"Tired with my fruitleſs attempt, I was compelled to ſeek my ſafety; I therefore returned to my own cavern, taking with me the body of the robber. I ſtripped him, and exchanging cloaths, left him, having diſfi-

gured his countenance with blood, and laid the dagger near him, that ſo my perſecutors might ſuppoſe it was my body, and that in a fit of deſperation I had put an end to my exiſtence.

"I then entered the paſſage, and having ſtopped up the aperture through which I made my eſcape with rubbiſh, ſought the outlet I had obſerved the robber vaniſh through, and which, to my extreme ſurpriſe and joy, reſtored me to liberty."

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

——In thy right hand lead with thee,
The mountain nymph, ſweet liberty.
MILTON.

"FAINTLY can I picture my ſenſations at that moment, in which all remembrance of my paſt ſorrows were for a time ſuſpended. The miſt of night was fleeting faſt, while in the eaſt the ruddy tinted ſky announced the arrival of the god of day, and caſt its influence on the boſom of the ocean. The air after ſo long confinement I could ill bear; ſtill the neceſſity of my quick departure gave me freſh vigour, and urged me on. I travelled towards my caſtle, and at length the turrets of my

manſion ſhewed themſelves, when the appearance of an aged peaſant cauſed me to make towards him, and I quickly recognized his features; his life had been ſpent in the vaſſalage of my anceſtors.

"I accoſted him as a ſtranger, determined to know whether the remembrance of Glencairn obtained a place in his mind.

"Friend," quoth I, "I have travelled far; ſay, does the ſpring of hoſpitality influence the portal of yon edifice?"

"Seek it not," quoth he, "the ſtory of woe is in vain repeated at that gate,

gate, nor is the weary traveller e'er invited to enter it."

"Indeed!" anſwered I, "and was it always ſo?"

"Alas!" replied the hind, "the former owner would with his own hand adminiſter comfort to the meaneſt creature; with him the poor loſt a benefactor, the oppreſſed a champion, and the vicious a monitor."

"Think me not, Eldred, guilty of vanity, in repeating the words of the poor fellow; for that, of all paſſions, is moſt deſerving our contempt—but let this teach thee how to act the proper part of man. Reflect, that Being who places thee in an exalted

ſtation, can hurl thee lower than thy dependant; and, oh! my ſon, be aſſured the greateſt luxury riches can purchaſe, is relieving the biting wants of penury, and ſecuring the prayers of our fellow creatures!

"I ventured to diſcover myſelf, and his joy at ſeeing me was extreme, but was ſuddenly checked by recollecting where I was.

"My lord," he cried, "fly this hoſtile place! ſhould you be known, your life would anſwer."

"Hold!" I interrupted, "for my life I care not; know you any tidings of my ſon?"

"I know

"I know but little," returned the peaſant, "'twas here believed you were aſſaſſinated; a ſhort time after, Sir James ſent for your ſon to Edinburgh, and garriſoned the caſtle with his own followers, diſcharging yours. Since the departure of my young Lord, no tidings have reached us."

"What could I think? From his inhuman treatment to me, what could I ſuppoſe but you were no more.

"Almoſt diſtracted, I knew not what to do. But after a time, imagining I had by ſome involuntary crime, drawn down the vengeance of heaven on me and mine; ſo I imagined the only method to reconcile the Deity, would be by performing ſome action

that might appear laudable to him, and nothing ſeemed more ſuited than undertaking a pilgrimage to the Holy-land. I therefore provided myſelf with a habit for the purpoſe, and commenced my journey, having ſworn the old man never to divulge his knowledge of my exiſtence, and was accompanied by his good wiſhes.

"Long, long and tedious was the way: unprotected from the ſcorching heat of the Aſiatic ſun, I wandered, and having reached the deſtined ſpot, performed my miſſion. I then traverſed the eaſtern continent, ſtill in Palmer's weeds, and afterwards returned to Europe, moſt part of which I croſſed. At Italy, I met with ſome more of my own calling, who propoſed

poſed making the tour of England. I accompanied them, and being ſo near my native country, I was by an involuntary impulſe compelled to viſit it. I ſought the caſtle of Wallace, and claimed entertainment there; I learned from the converſation of the domeſticks, you had been reared by your uncle until a ſhort time previous, when you had abſconded with the daughter of Sir James.

"I laſt night threw aſide my diſguiſe, and entered his room: he inſtantly remembered my features, but ſuppoſing me dead, imagination cauſed him to conſider me as the ſpirit of the brother he had ſo much wronged. I had this night retired to the cloſet adjoining his apartment, with an inten-

tion to diſcloſe myſelf, and ſeek to ſoothe him to repentance, when the words I heard convinced me you were my ſon; and I will no more complain of the fickle goddeſs, ſince you are reſtored to me."

Here the Lord Glencairn concluded his narration.

On the following day the cavern was ſearched; they removed the rubbiſh and entered the paſſage; the noiſes which had been heard were again repeated. At length they diſcovered ſeveral cells, and delivered innumerable captives who had long groaned in confinement, and whoſe appearance accounted for the diſturbances experienced by Eldred and his father, while

while in confinement. They moreover secured the banditti, and resigned them to the rigour of the law. In short, justice was again practised, and the whole neighbourhood rung with the names of Eldred and Glencairn.

It is now proper to mention Donald, whom we left a laurelled conqueror at Roxburgh. Flushed with conquest, and rendered more arbitrary from the favourable opinion entertained of him by the queen, he repaired to the Castle; and Jane still persisting in her refusal of his hand, he resolved by force to make her his. His confessor, who for the consideration of a little yellow dross, cleansed his soul, and gave him absolution, appeared a proper person.

Choosing the dead of night, by force he entered the chamber of his intended victim, attended by his sacerdotal friend, and bade her yield her hand.

The unhappy maid upon her knees, entreated death in preference; conjuring him by every solemn argument to refrain from his design. But as effectually might the trembling lamb plead for life to the voracious wolf, as she have softened Donald's inflexible mind.

"Thy prayers are vain, weak maid," he cried, "I am preparing for thy happiness. What canst thou wish for? If power, my wide domains will give thee that, accompanied by wealth; if love, behold me now, though with the smooth and artful tale of hypocrites I

cannot

cdnnot plead my paſſion, yet at thy feet I freely lay my heart."

"Hold!" exclaimed Jane, "Diſſembling villain! too well I ſee through thy poor artifice: but here, in the ſight of heaven, I ſwear I never will be thine!"

"Indeed, my ſaucy dame!" returned the Baron, "we'll try thy boaſted perſeverance. Come Father, execute your office."

The prieſt had juſt began the ceremony, when they were ſtartled by loud and reiterated jars againſt the caſtle gate. Donald himſelf appeared careleſs of this unexpected intruſion, and again ordered the monk

to

to proceed. He did ſo, and the irrevocable ring was about to be placed on the trembling hand of Jane, when the chamber door was violently burſt open, and an armed warrior ſtood before the aſtoniſhed Donald!

"Monſter!" ſaid the ſtranger, "releaſe the lady, and oppoſe the ſtrength of one more equal to thee!"

So ſaying, he immediately aſſailed the Lord of the Iſles: their ſwords caſt round a dreadful gleam, and victory ſeemed doubtful; when fortune, turning her wheel out of its uſual track, a thing too rare, favoured the juſter cauſe; the unknown cavalier diſarmed his antagoniſt, who was now entirely in his power.

"Thy

"Thy life is fairly mine," exclaimed the conqueror, "but let the compaſſion I extend to thee, teach thee to practiſe mercy to thy enemies. Live and repent!"

Jane, who had been an anxious ſpectator of the combat, was wrapped in ſilent gratitude, when the ſtranger raiſing his beaver, diſcovered the face of her loved Glencairn. The ſudden change from deep deſpair to joy deprived her of all power, and ſhe ſunk inſenſate into the arms of Eldred.

By this time the Lord Glencairn joined his ſon; they uſed their endeavours in reſtoring Jane, and at length ſucceeded; when the latter introduced her

her to his father, who received her with a paternal affection.

During theſe tranſactions, the followers of the two noblemen entirely vanquiſhed the retainers of Donald; they ſearched the caſtle, and gave liberty to Edric, who was joyfully received by the young Lord Eldred; and in a dungeon had found Andrew, but in a very weak condition.

"Here," ſays one of the officers, "is a priſoner, but he ſeems to be in ſo bad a ſtate, that were he releaſed, he would ſcarce be able to leave the place."

"You are miſtaken," replied the Squire, "were my priſon doors now open,

open, notwithſtanding the pain theſe ſteel ornaments with which they have honoured me have cauſed, I could ſkip away as nimbly as a flea over a Friar's noſe."

They liberated and conducted him to his maſter; his groteſque appearance excited a ſmile on the features of his ſpectators; his red beard was grown to an enormous length, and from the dirt which was gathered therein, gave him more the reſemblance to a demon than a human being. Immediately on his entrance, he cried; "Ah, my Lord, is it poſſible 'tis you? Alas! you thought your cares were all over when laſt you quitted this infernal dwelling, but you are ſo precipitate: recollect an old proverb that

I have

I have oft repeated to you; *An ounce of discretion is worth a pound of wit!* By the mass there stands old Pluto, alias Donald! the last time I saw him, *he looked as hot as if he had been eating Tewkesbury mustard.*"

"Silence," replied Eldred, (then presenting his father) "do you know this person, Andrew?"

"Hey! what! Oh, a ghost! a ghost!!"

"No, my honest fellow," returned Archibald, "I am no ghost."

"Huzza! huzza!" cried the overjoyed Squire, "he's alive."

"Andrew,"

"Andrew," ſaid Glencairn, "for your fidelity to my ſon, you ſhall be rewarded. I will place you——"

"Not in the army, I hope my Lord," interrupted Andrew, "believe me, I ſhall make but a pitiful ſoldier. I have ſo great an antipathy to ſteel, that I would not be taylor to his majeſty, merely becauſe I ſhould have been obliged to handle a needle."

"Fear not," exclaimed his maſter, "your poſt ſhall be exempt from danger."

"I thank you, my Lord," replied his ſervant, "that poſt will juſt ſuit me."

They now prepared to depart, and having ſentenced the prieſt to perpetual impriſonment, and pardoned Donald, (who lived many years a ſincere penitent) they purſued their journey to Aberdeenſhire. In their way, Eldred informed Jane of her father's death, at which ſhe betrayed evident marks of grief: they however ſought to conſole her by ſaying, that on her arrival ſhe would meet with one, who would more than make reparation for her loſs.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

Vain are all ſudden ſallies of delight;
Convulſions of a weak, diſtemper'd joy.
Joy's a fix't ſtate; a tenure, not a ſtart.

YOUNG.

ON arriving at the caſtle, Glencairn retired, but ſoon returned, leading in a lady, whom he preſented to his niece; ſaying, "behold the mother whoſe fate you ſo regret."

The ſtranger fell upon her neck, and they mingled tears of love and tenderneſs; while the drop of ſympathy, more precious than the Indian pearl, fell from the eyes of Eldred and his father, and Jane inſtantly recog-

nized

nized the figure ſhe had ſo often ſeen at old Maud's.

All now was happineſs at the Caſtle, ſave that the breaſt of Eldred was touched with remorſe for his ungrateful conduct to the hermit. He could not bear to ſuffer in the opinion of ſo worthy a creature, and inſtantly diſpatched a meſſenger in queſt of him. His letter ſaid,

"*THE perſon he had ſo hoſpitably entertained at his cell, was now reſtored to happineſs, and wiſhed the Anchorite to ſhare his joy.*"

Jane intreated her parent to relate by what ſtrange means ſhe had been torn from her, and why ſhe ſo long

took

took up her abode at the cottage of Maud.

"Alas! my child," replied Matilda, "I have ſuffered much; my hiſtory is unentertaining, and my misfortunes have been ſolely created by imperious Man. My father, heaven reſt his aſhes, firſt forbade me to love the youth to whom my heart was ſo firmly attached, that even now the paſſion lurks at my breaſt. Compelled to marry one who bore me not the leaſt affection, who ſought my alliance to gratify his avarice, who drove me from my native land, and immured me within the lofty walls of a mouldering convent. Carrol was the perſon he fixed on to conduct me."

"Villain!"

"Villain!" exclaimed Glencairn, "he has eſcaped too well! On hearing I was alive, and with my ſon, in the apartment of his Lord, he fled. Oh! had he fallen into my power, the moſt galling cruelties tyranny ever invented had been his!"

"Happy am I," returned Lady Wallace, "he is not. If the Almighty think fit to ſpare him, and grant him leiſure for repentance, ſhall man refuſe it?"

"But to reſume my tale: he lodged me in the convent, the Abbeſs of which, for ſome time, treated me with tenderneſs and affection: at length ſhe hinted a diſtant wiſh that I ſhould take the veil; but finding I would not underſtand

derſtand her, ſhe ſpoke more plainly. I then peremptorily refuſed: ſince when ſhe endeavoured by every rigorous means to compel me, but in vain. I rather would have fallen a ſacrifice at the altar, than offer a divided heart to heaven.

"My life was now become a burden to me, when I recollected an old French ſoldier who daily implored charity at the grate. I reſolved on bribing him; I told him frankly the treatment I had received, and promiſed him a purſe of gold, if he would aſſiſt me in making my eſcape, and that he would be under the garden wall in the duſk of the evening. He aſſured me of his fidelity, vowed to die in my ſervice, and

moreover offered to accompany me till I was aſſured of my ſafety.

"At ſun-ſet I equipped myſelf with a Friar's habit, which he had furniſhed me with in the courſe of the day, and was ſuffered by the porter to depart without the leaſt ſuſpicion. My truſty ſoldier was waiting for me, and we took a long leave of the convent.

"He procured me a paſſage in a veſſel bound for Scotland, for which place I embarked, after having rewarded him, and landed ſafely in my native country. I inſtantly repaired to the cottage of Maud, where I have ſince tarried, and conſoled myſelf by being near you, my daughter. I am the perſon who was introduced to you by the

the good old woman, on the morning of your elopement: I am the object who cauſed your terror at the cavern, by addreſſing you, and who have ſince beheld your couſin Eldred there. He ſought to overtake me, but the mazes and windings of the rocks favoured my flight, and I eſcaped him.

"My reaſon for theſe walks was, that as I was fearful of being ſeen, which I muſt have been, had I ventured out by day-light, I embraced the hour of darkneſs to enjoy the freſh invigorating air. On the rumour of Sir James's deceaſe, of Eldred ſucceeding him in the eſtate, and that my brother lived, I haſtened to the Caſtle. Time had not ſo much altered

the lineaments of a ſiſter, but that I was known, and received with ſuch unfeigned marks of affection, that a life of gratitude will ſcarce repay what I owe."

"No more of that," ſaid Archibald, "our hours of miſery, I truſt, are paſt; be thoſe to come, of joy!"

In a few days Eldred's meſſenger returned, announcing the arrival of father Ambroſe. The young Lord hurried out from his company to welcome him, and preſently returned leading the hermit, who no ſooner entered the apartment, than he ſunk lifeleſs upon the floor.

All ran to him, and were buſy in reviving him: at laſt they ſucceeded in their endeavours, and on ſeeing Lady Wallace, he exclaimed, "Gracious heaven! Matilda!"

The well known voice ſtruck conviction to her heart, and notwithſtanding the many years they had been abſent from each other, ſhe ſtraightway knew her Alan, her beloved Alan! whom ſhe ſuppoſed to have periſhed in the Gallic wars.

They renewed their vows of everlaſting love. Glencairn welcomed him as the companion of his youth; while Jane and Eldred ſtood wrapped in wonder at the ſcene.

They

They all removed to the Caſtle of Glencairn, where, after the tedious interval of a year from the death of Wallace, Alan Duntrone received the hand of his widow, and at the ſame time Eldred was bleſt with his lovely Jane.

The antique pile now rung with mirth and feſtivity. Bonfires blazed; the mantling juice of the grape ſwelled on the hoſpitable board; the pliant fingers of the bards flew o'er the ſtrings of the ſoul-ſubduing lyre, while their tongues alternately rehearſed the deeds of warriors, and conſtancy of maidens.

The caſtle of Wallace was converted into an alm's houſe, where age and infancy met with a ſanctuary from the iron

iron gripe of indigence, and of which the philoſopher Andrew was conſtituted governor.

Edric was maintained as the Squire of Eldred; Duncan, the ſon of Carrol, as his ſteward: Maud enjoyed a conſiderable penſion from the purſe of Eldred. In ſhort, no one who had contributed to his welfare went unrewarded.

Duntrone, with his lady, reſided at the manſion of his anceſtors; Eldred and Jane at the caſtle of Lord Glencairn, who grew old amidſt a numerous offspring of grand-children.

Thus did this family exhibit a picture to convince the world, that the road to Virtue,

Virtue, though sometimes cross'd and strewed with thorns, leads to a happy goal; while the facile and flowery path of Vice, ever ends in a labyrinth of guilty conscience and despair.

FINIS.